ANOTHER FINE KAPPA PUBLICATION

THE RING

The RING®

EXTRA

- Barrera
- Cotto
- Rahman
- '04 Olympians

www.thering-online.com

HOPKINS Honors The Legends- And Himself

ONE FINAL FIGHT FOR OSCAR?

THE RING Answers The Vital Questions About De La Hoya-Mayweather

OCTOBER 2006

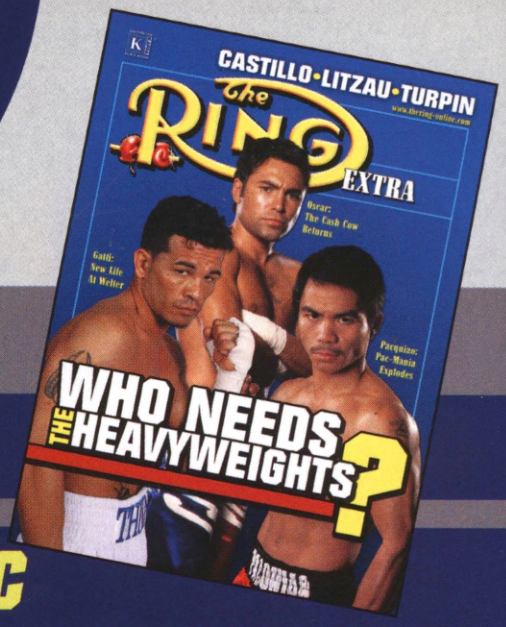
$5.95 U.S. $7.00 CANADA £3.95 U.K.

10

7 25274 00396 9

Display Until Oct. 2

The RING



A RING SUBSCRIPTION

A FREE RING ALMANAC

& 35 BUCKS IN YOUR POCKET!

$35! That's what you'll save over the regular newsstand price when you subscribe to 12 issues of The Ring. Why not save nearly 50 percent and enjoy the convenience of having each issue delivered straight to your door? If you can think of one reason why not, then factor this into your decision:

Subscribe for 12 issues and we'll send you—absolutely free—a copy of the The Ring Boxing Almanac And Book Of Facts. That's a $5.95 value ... free!

So here it is: 6 issues of The Ring, 6 issues of The Ring Extra—and the 2006 Ring Almanac. More than $41 in savings (including the Almanac) and no more disappointments over newsstand sellouts!

Good deal? GREAT DEAL!

Send To: **London Publishing Co.**, P.O. Box 2021, Dept. 9, Marion, OH 43306-8121

☐ YES, I would like to take advantage of your money-saving offer. I have indicated below which subscription plan I am ordering and have enclosed my payment or provided my credit card information.

TWO WAYS TO SAVE!

Please Check Off The One You Wish To Order:

1 Save More Than $11 Over Newsstand Price! LRNG

☐ THE RING/THE RING EXTRA (6 issues) for $30.00 ANPR06

2 Monster Deal—More Than $40 Off Newsstand! LRNG

☐ THE RING/THE RING EXTRA (12 issues) for $48.00. Plus, THE RING 2006 Almanac, for free! AALM06

Please indicate method of payment:

☐ Check or money order
(enclosed and payable to London Publishing Co.)

☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard

Card #__ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __

Expiration Date: ___/___
MO/YR

Signature: _____

NAME_____

ADDRESS_____APT.____

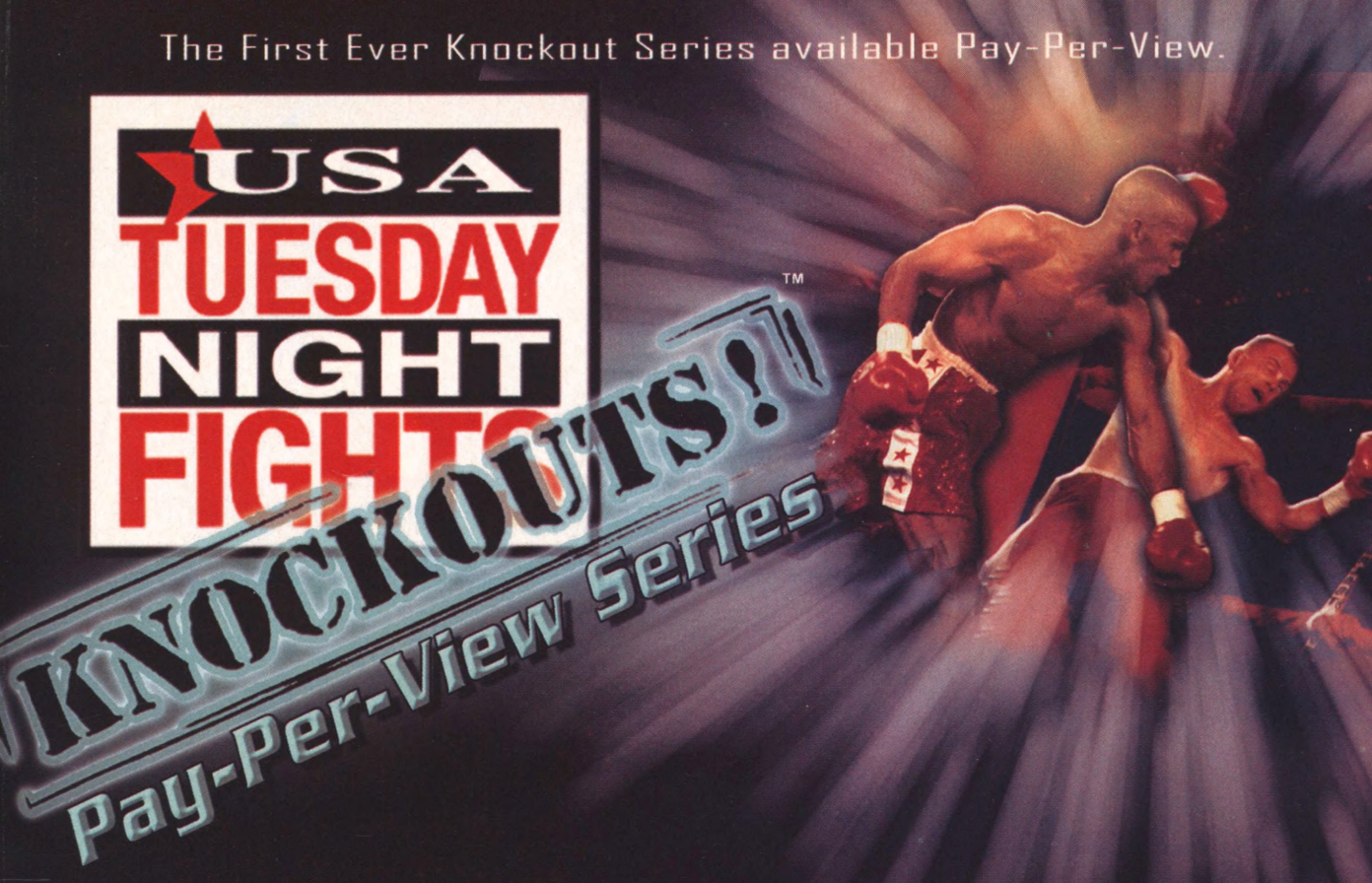
CITY_____STATE____ZIP_____

☐ New Subscription ☐ Renewal

FOR CANADA AND ALL OTHER COUNTRIES: $36.00 FOR 6 ISSUES ($48.00 AIRMAIL); $60.00 FOR 12 ISSUES ($84.00 AIRMAIL). INTERNATIONAL MONEY ORDERS ONLY IN U.S. FUNDS ONLY. PLEASE ALLOW UP TO EIGHT WEEKS BEFORE YOU RECEIVE YOUR FIRST MAGAZINE. OFFER EXPIRES JANUARY 31, 2007. THE RING ALMANAC AVAILABLE ONLY WHILE SUPPLIES LAST.

7432

The First Ever Knockout Series available Pay-Per-View.



NOW PLAYING ON PAY-PER-VIEW

EPISODE #2

FEATURING

GATTI - RUELAS - RUIZ

AND MANY MORE

EPISODE #3

FEATURING

FOREMAN - CZYZ - MARQUEZ

AND MANY MORE

New Episode Each Month!

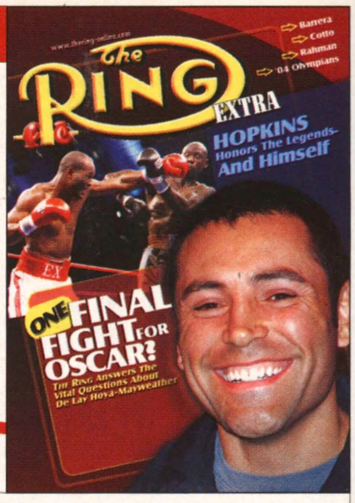
Contact your local cable or satellite provider to order.

CSI SPORTS www.koppv.com FIGHT SPORTS

USA Tuesday Night Fights KNOCKOUTS! © 2006 CSI Entertainment, Inc. All rights reserved. USA Tuesday Night Fights KNOCKOUTS! and CSI Sports logos are CSI Entertainment, Inc. trademarks worldwide. Unauthorized usage of these names or logos are strictly prohibited.

[Contents]

The Ring Extra



October 2006

Oscar De La Hoya by **Ethan Miller/Getty Images**
Bernard Hopkins-Antonio Tarver by **Al Bello/Getty Images**

Cover Design by **Olivia Wierzbicki**

Features

26 Hopkins' Throwback Night In Jersey
The New Light Heavyweight Honors The Legends—And Himself
By Joe Santoliquito

34 De La Hoya-Mayweather
The Ring Answers The Vital Questions About Boxing's Biggest Fight
By William Dettloff

42 America's Last Hope
Can Rahman Stem The Eastern European Invasion?
By William Dettloff

48 Barrera Still Fights On High Octane
But Is The Tank Running Out?
By Ivan Goldman

56 Recipe For Success
How To Fill The Garden Without a Superfight
By Don Stradley

66 An Oh-Fer For '04 Olympians?
The U.S. Fighters Are Struggling As Pros ...
But At Least Time Is On Their Side
By Eric Raskin

74 The Ring Update: Hagler Gatekeeper Robbie Sims
"Satan Always Knew How To Push My Buttons"
By Don Stradley

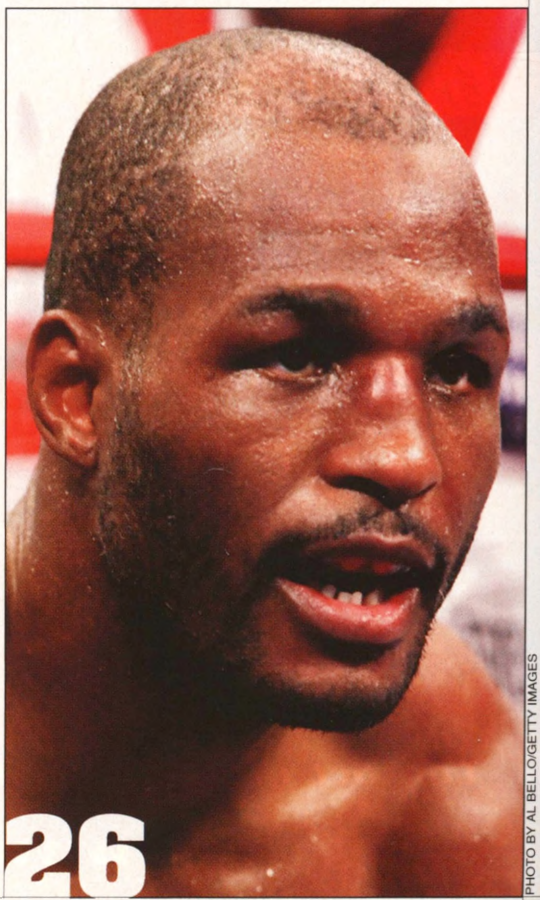


PHOTO BY AL BELLO/GETTY IMAGES

Ringside Reports

82 Fighter Of The Month & Ringside Reports

Ratings

13 Ratings Analysis

14 The Ring's International Ratings & Records

PHOTO BY CHRIS POLK/HBO

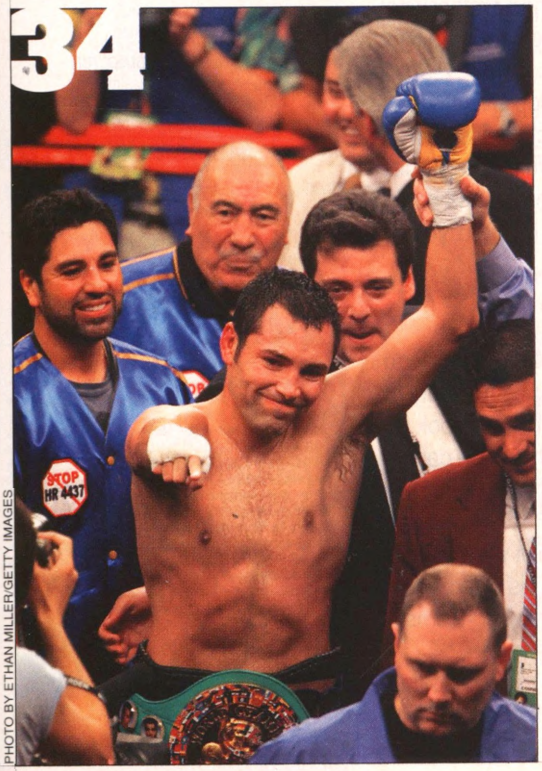


PHOTO BY ETHAN MILLER/GETTY IMAGES

Departments

6 **Ringside** *by Nigel Collins*

8 **Round One**

16 **Ryan Out Loud** *by Jeff Ryan*

18 **Digging Deep** *by Ivan Goldman*

22 **Camera Clicks**

24 **New Faces: Curtis Stevens**
by Joe Santoliquito

80 **Worldwide Fight Results**

92 **The Ring Flashback: December 1949**

94 **The Fight Doctor** *by Margaret Goodman, M.D.*

96 **Come Out Writing**

98 **Looking Ahead** *by Joe Santoliquito*

[Ringside]

Volume 85, No. 9 October 2006

The RING

THE RING has enjoyed a positive and mutually beneficial relationship with Bernard Hopkins throughout most of his career, with the only unpleasant period coming during the immediate aftermath of his first loss to Jermain Taylor. I don't wish to pick at old wounds, so I'll won't go into details, but suffice to say that when I presented Taylor with his RING belt at a New York press conference announcing their rematch, Hopkins decided he'd rather visit the bathroom than watch.

I was, therefore, pleasantly surprised to learn that one of the first things Hopkins said at the press conference, following his remarkable victory over Antonio Tarver to win the light heavyweight championship, was, "Does this mean I'm going to get a new belt from RING magazine?"

The answer is, of course, yes. Part of the beauty of THE RING championship policy is that if you beat the champ, you become the new champ, and as such deserve the only belt emblematic of a true world champion. The various alphabet organizations don't even figure into the equation.

When you think about it, it only makes sense that an old-school fighter such as B-Hop would want a championship belt that goes all the way back to 1922, a belt that has been worn by virtually every legitimate world champion since.

Hopkins has a keen sense of history and has always acknowledged his debt to the great fighters who came before him. Moreover, he's also been wise enough to incorporate many of their moves into his own game, and going into the Tarver fight, he gained additional motivation from the fact that he had a chance to accomplish something Sugar Ray Robinson, one of his main influences, failed to do.

Regardless of whether or not Hopkins honors his promise to now retire, he will soon have two RING championship belts in his trophy case. And I would be less than honest if I didn't admit that this fact is as advantageous to THE RING as it is to Hopkins. He is exactly the sort of fighter we wish all champions could be—a dedicated, disciplined professional who has mastered every nuance of his craft, a fighter who has always been eager to fight the very best. In other words, a credit to the Sweet Science.

So as he prepares to enter life after boxing, I'd like to thank Bernard Hopkins for being such an terrific champion and for wearing THE RING belt with such distinction. It's been a pleasure and an honor to cover your career, Bernard, and whatever the future may hold, rest assured that THE RING will preserve the memory of your accomplishment the same way we have preserved the memory of the magnificent fighters who inspired you to become one of the greatest fighters of this or any other generation.

◆◆◆

Much has been said and written about the aborted rubber match between Diego Corrales and Jose Luis Castillo, with much more to come. And there is clearly plenty of blame to go around, but if you want to single out one thing as the biggest culprit, look no further than day-before-the-fight weigh-ins. If Castillo had had to weigh in the same day he fought, he would never have signed a contract to fight at 135 pounds. What is more, it is highly doubtful Corrales would have either.

If the boxing industry truly wants to avoid similar calamities in the future, it will ditch this flawed system immediately. But so far, all anybody seems interested in is his suing or fining somebody. Getting to the root of the problem appears to be the last of their concerns.

Nigel Collins
Editor-in-Chief

NATHANIEL S. FLEISCHER
Founder
(1888-1972)

STUART M. SAKS
Publisher

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Nigel Collins

MANAGING EDITOR
Joseph Santoliquito

SENIOR ART DIRECTOR
Greg Stevens

ART DIRECTORS
David Romanosky
Olivia Wierzbicki
Jim Malloy

PRODUCTION MANAGER
Bethany Lawler

PRE-PRESS DIRECTOR
Cliff Campo

IMAGING DIRECTOR
Kelly A. Grant

ASSOCIATE EDITORS
Lisa Rocchi
Frank Ingiosi

CONTRIBUTING EDITOR
Eric Raskin

SENIOR WRITER
William Dettloff

PRESIDENT
Despina McNulty

CIRCULATION DIRECTOR
David Tyler

RETAIL SERVICES DIRECTOR
Briana Coppola

NATIONAL CIRCULATION MANAGERS
Robert Nucci
Dave Hagman

ADVERTISING DIRECTOR
Vincent Bellissima
(215) 643-6385
vbellissima@kappapublishing.com

ADVERTISING ASSISTANT
Dianne Weber

SUBSCRIPTION INQUIRIES
London Publishing Co.
P.O. Box 2029, Dept. 9
Marion, OH 43306-8129
(815) 734-1212
CustSrvc@Kappapublishing.com

The Ring (ISSN: 0035-5410), Vol. 85, No. 9 (Extra, October 2006), is published monthly by London Publishing Co., 6198 Butler Pike, Suite 200, Blue Bell, PA 19422. Periodicals postage paid at Blue Bell, PA 19422, and additional post offices. Postmaster: Send change of address notices to: The Ring, P.O. Box 2029, Dept. 9, Marion, OH 43306-8129. Single copy price $5.95 ($7.00 in Canada, £3.95 in U.K.). Subscription price $83.40 in the U.S., $99.00 in Canada and remaining countries. Not responsible for the loss or non-return of unsolicited articles or photographs, which will not be returned unless accompanied by a self-addressed envelope bearing the proper amount of postage. The entire contents of this magazine are copyright ©2006 London Publishing Co. No part of this magazine may be reproduced without the written permission of the publisher. All rights reserved. Publisher is not responsible for the accuracy or content of any advertisements appearing in this magazine, nor the delivery or quality of merchandise or services offered. No endorsement of any such advertisement is intended or implied. Advertisers and agencies assume liability for claims arising from the content of their advertisements. FOR ADVERTISING INQUIRIES AND RATES: (215) 643-6385. U.S. and Canadian distribution by Kable Distribution Services Inc., 641 Lexington Ave., New York, NY 10022. International distribution by Worldwide Media Service Inc., 115 East 23rd St., New York, NY 10010, U.K. distribution by Comag, Tavistock Rd., West Drayton, Middlesex UB77QE, England.
Printed in U.S.A.

International Boxing Hall of Fame

Limited Autograph Souvenirs

Boxing Greats Helping Support the Museum

The Showplace of Boxing — Canastota, NY — Boxing Hall of Fame

Certificate of Authenticity accompanies each item

EVERLAST SPEED BAG

$195

Autographed by 23 "Greats"

Arguello ★ Basilio ★ Buchanan ★ Carbajal ★ Chacon ★ Chuvalo ★ Corrales ★ Griffith ★ Hagler ★ LaMotta ★ Lopez ★ McGuigan ★ Minter ★ Mosley ★ Norris ★ Norton ★ Olivares ★ Pryor ★ Spinks ★ Starling ★ Stracey ★ Torres ★ Ward ★

GIANT GOLD GLOVE

$225

Autographed by 23 "Greats"

Arguello ★ Basilio ★ Buchanan ★ Carbajal ★ Chacon ★ Chuvalo ★ Corrales ★ Griffith ★ Hagler ★ LaMotta ★ Lopez ★ McGuigan ★ Minter ★ Mosley ★ Norris ★ Norton ★ Olivares ★ Pryor ★ Spinks ★ Starling ★ Stracey ★ Torres ★ Ward ★

MIDDLEWEIGHT GLOVE

6 Middleweight autographs on Everlast glove

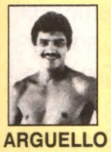
★ Marvelous Marvin Hagler
★ Carmen Basilio
★ Emile Griffith
★ Jake LaMotta
★ Alan Minter
★ Nino Benvenuti

$125

★ Limited Quantity ★

ARGUELLO & PRYOR

Both champions on Everlast glove
OR
Both champions of Everlast trunks



ARGUELLO

$105

PRYOR

★ Limited Quantity ★

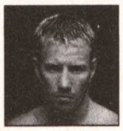
AUTOGRAPH GLOVES

$85

(single autograph on Everlast glove)

★ Earnie Shavers
★ Carmen Basilio
★ Leon Spinks
★ Michael Spinks
★ Aaron Pryor
★ Christy Martin
★ Ken Norton
★ Virgil Hill
★ Kid Gavilan
★ Ken Buchanan
★ Azumah Nelson
★ Buddy McGirt
★ Michael Carbajal
★ Barry McGuigan
★ "Irish" Micky Ward
★ Carlos Palomino
★ Sir Henry Cooper
★ Dwight Qawi
★ Tommy Morrison
★ Angelo Dundee
★ Angel Manfredy
★ Terry Norris
★ Livingstone Bramble
★ Ricardo "Finito" Lopez
★ James "Buster" Douglas
★ Danny "Little Red" Lopez

CARBAJAL



WARD

MORRISON

NELSON

COMBINATION GLOVE

(two autographs on Everlast glove)

$105

★ Nelson - Fenech
★ Basilio - Fullmer
★ Arguello - Pryor
★ Benvenuti - Griffith
★ Leon & Cory Spinks

TODAY'S STARS

(single autograph on Everlast glove)

$85

★ Acelino "Popo" Freitas
★ Johnny Tapia
★ Arturo "Thunder" Gatti
★ Antonio "Magic Man" Tarver
★ Diego "Chico" Corrales
★ "Sugar" Shane Mosley
★ James "Lights Out" Toney

CHAMPIONSHIP GLOVE

All 22 autographs on Everlast glove

$195

Arguello ★ Basilio ★ Buchanan ★ Carbajal ★ Chacon ★ Chuvalo ★ Corrales ★ Griffith ★ Hagler ★ Lopez ★ McGuigan ★ Minter ★ Mosley ★ Norris ★ Norton ★ Olivares ★ Pryor ★ Spinks ★ Starling ★ Stracey ★ Torres ★ Ward ★

EVERLAST CORNER POST

$275

Autographed by 23 greats:

Arguello ★ Basilio ★ Buchanan ★ Carbajal ★ Chacon ★ Chuvalo ★ Corrales ★ Griffith ★ Hagler ★ LaMotta ★ Lopez ★ McGuigan ★ Minter ★ Mosley ★ Norris ★ Norton ★ Olivares ★ Pryor ★ Spinks ★ Starling ★ Stracey ★ Torres ★ Ward ★

BOXING ROBE

23 autographs on Everlast robe

$275

Arguello ★ Basilio ★ Buchanan ★ Carbajal ★ Chacon ★ Chuvalo ★ Corrales ★ Griffith ★ Hagler ★ LaMotta ★ Lopez ★ McGuigan ★ Minter ★ Mosley ★ Norris ★ Norton ★ Olivares ★ Pryor ★ Spinks ★ Starling ★ Stracey ★ Torres Ward

HEAVYWEIGHT GLOVE

5 Heavyweight autographs on Everlast glove

★ Ken Norton
★ Leon Spinks
★ Sir Henry Cooper
★ George Chuvalo
★ Earnie Shavers

$125

Phone Orders: (315) 697-7095
Fax (315) 697-5356

Make checks payable to:
BOXING HALL OF FAME
1 Hall of Fame Drive
Canastota, NY 13032

Please add 8% Sales Tax
and $8.00 per item for shipping in U.S.
Call for International shipping rates

Cold Hands And Warm Hearts In Canastota

It was a stormy four days in Canastota, New York, with the thermometer fighting to reach 60 degrees, but the boxers and their fans couldn't have found a better antidote to combat the unseasonably cool temperatures, whipping winds, and biting rain at the 2006 International Boxing Hall of Fame Induction Weekend: that fistic equivalent of hot chocolate was the mutual love between the pugilists and their supporters.

The intermingling between the fans and their fistic heroes during the four days of activities (June 8-11) is the connection that makes Hall of Fame Weekend so special. Whether it was Ruben Olivares leading a conga line at Graziano's Restaurant and Lounge, Alexis Arguello and Carmen Basilio taking turns picking each other's pockets, or a choked-up Michael Carbajal thanking his family during his induction speech, the festivities ran the gamut of emotions from light-heartedness to compassion.

A unique feature of this year's festivities was a salute to the 1976 U.S. Olympic Boxing Team on the 30th anniversary of its multiple-medal performances in Montreal. Team members Louis Curtis, Charles Mooney, Chuck Walker, Leo Randolph, Howard Davis Jr., Ray Leonard, Leon Spinks, and Davey Armstrong were all on hand for the celebration. Walker, the only Caucasian on the squad, garnered the biggest laugh at the testimonial dinner when he said, "You can probably see I'm a little different from the rest of the team—I'm taller."

Inducted along with Carbajal was fellow junior flyweight Humberto "Chiquita" Gonzalez, with whom "Little Hands Of Stone" fought a trilogy of high profile fights in the early-1990s. The intense interest generated by the popular 108-pounders made them first fighters of their size to earn $1-million purses. In their initial bout, Carbajal came off the canvas to starch Gonzalez with one punch in THE RING's 1993 Fight of the Year. In their second and third fights, Gonzalez, normally a kayo artist, turned boxer and won a pair of 12-round decisions. "We were just as powerful as the big guys," said Carbajal in his acceptance speech.

PHOTO BY MIKE GREENHILL

Arguello picks Basilio's pocket

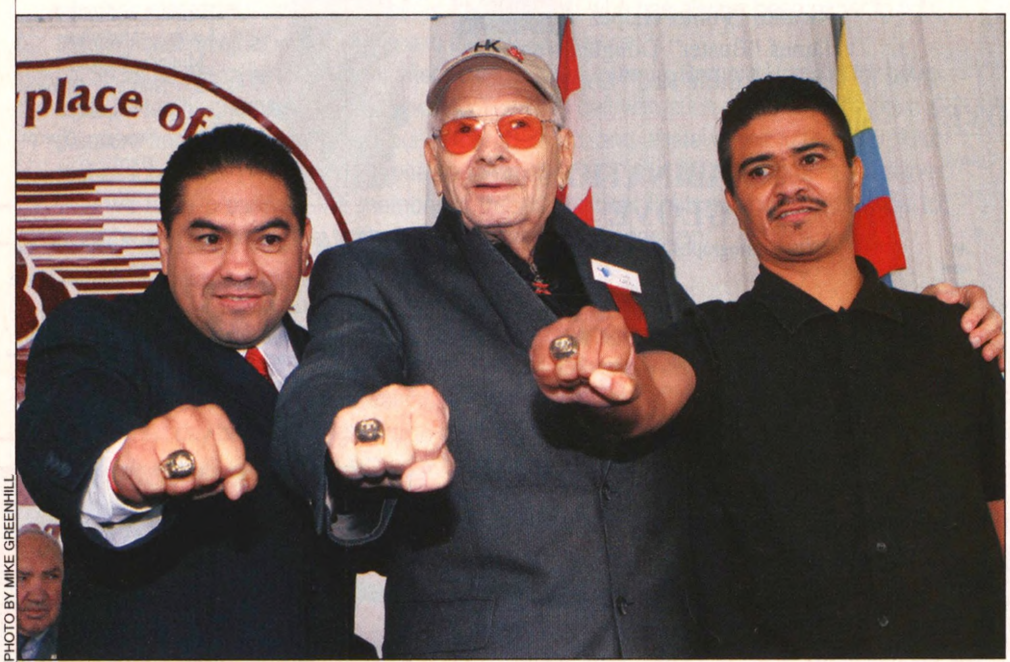


PHOTO BY MIKE GREENHILL

Living inductees Gonzalez, Kaplan, and Carbajal

Other 2006 living inductees were boxing historian Hank Kaplan and British boxing promoter Jarvis Astaire, who was unable to attend due to a family emergency. Posthumous inductees included lightweight and junior welterweight titleholder Edwin Rosario, middleweight titleholder Teddy Yarosz, welterweight champion and middleweight titleholder Lou Brouillard, light heavyweight champion Jimmy Slattery, bare-knuckle lightweight Jem Carney, trainer Whitey Bimstein, promoter Rodolfo Sabbatini, and former publisher of THE RING, Stanley Weston.

—Mike Greenhill

A Costly Cancellation

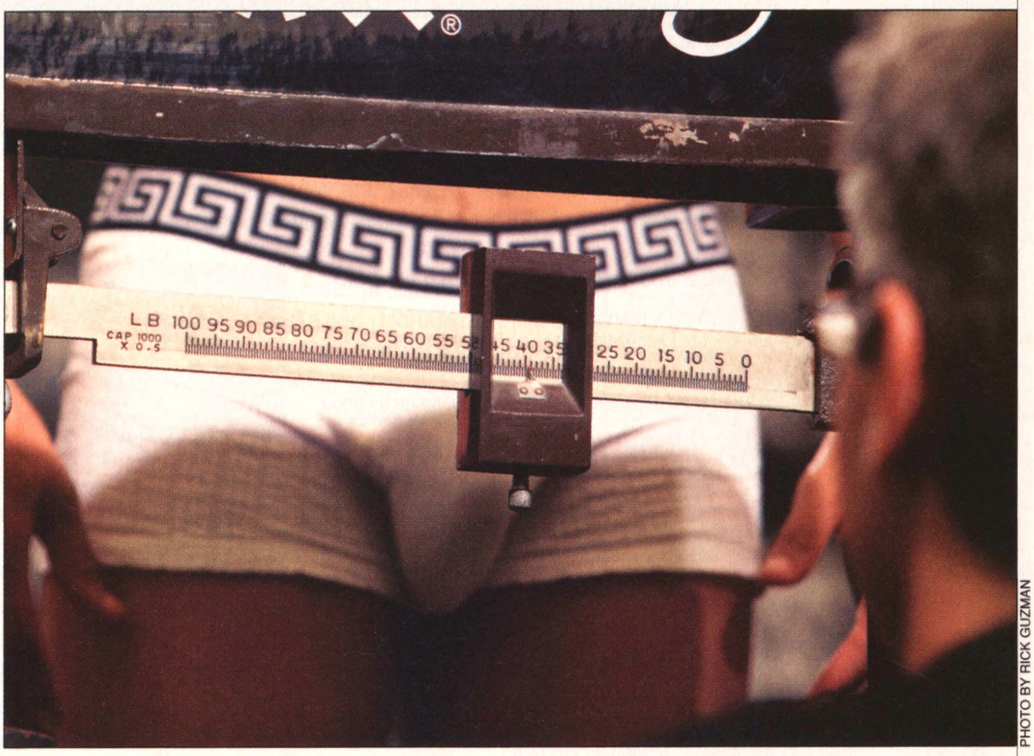


PHOTO BY RICK GUZMAN

The scale tells the tale

Jose Luis Castillo enraged the boxing world so much that you might have thought he'd kidnapped the Lindbergh baby *and* assassinated President Kennedy. That's what happens when you come in overweight and force the cancellation of a major fight, as Castillo did for his much-anticipated rubber match with world lightweight champion Diego Corrales in early-June.

A collective groan came from the audience at the weigh-in when Castillo weighed 140 pounds. After Corrales weighed in at 135, Castillo tried again, tipping the scale at 139½. Two hours later, Castillo tried a final time, but had only managed to squeeze another quarter of a pound from his already dehydrated and emaciated-looking body.

By then, Castillo's promoter, Bob Arum, was fuming.

"This is a complete disgrace," raved Arum. "As far as I'm concerned, I do not represent him. If I were Corrales, I wouldn't fight him. This is a disgrace to the sport of boxing."

Corrales had gone ahead with the second Castillo fight, in October 2005, after his Mexican rival had failed to make weight, and suffered a fourth-round knockout. He wasn't about to make the same mistake twice and decided not to fight.

"[Corrales] was not going to put his life at risk," said Corrales' promoter, Gary Shaw. "You saw what happened last time. We are not money hungry!"

The cancellation wasn't catastrophic enough to collapse the frail infrastructure of boxing, as some in the mainstream media would have you believe, but it was still a big enough blow to cast the sport in an unfavorable light and anger fans, especially those who had spent money traveling to Las Vegas for the event.

There were also some significant hits to the wallets of many of those involved. Corrales lost a $1.2-million purse, while his promoter, Shaw, estimated he'd lost hundreds of thousands. Arum projected his losses at $1-million. Castillo was not only out $900,000 in purse money, as this issue went to press he was facing sanctions from new Nevada State Athletic Commission, which has the power to fine him a maximum of $250,000 and possibly suspend or revoke his boxing license.

Showtime, the cable network contracted to televise the fight, had already undertaken precautions due of Castillo's iffy weight situation, lacing its contract with Top Rank with a $175,000 penalty if he didn't make the 135-pound limit.

Less than two weeks after the cancellation, both Corrales and Shaw filed lawsuits against Castillo and Top Rank. Corrales is seeking $1.2-million (his purse) and $10-million in punitive damages, while Shaw is asking for $750,000 he allegedly lost on the canceled promotion and $10-million in punitive damages.

All things considered, nobody should have been surprised that Castillo came in over the lightweight division limit. His weight was supposed to be monitored by the WBC on a regular basis in the weeks leading up to the fight, and, according to WBC President Jose Sulaiman, it was. After the cancellation, Sulaiman produced a series of written reports he claimed he'd sent to the NSAC and the promoters that clearly indicated Castillo was *not* on target to make 135 pounds.

While there is no doubt that Castillo deserves a large degree of culpability, it appears plenty of others involved in the aborted promotion should also shoulder a share of the blame. Therefore, with limited space available in this issue and so many questions left unanswered, THE RING has assigned award-winning journalist and regular contributor David Mayo to prepare a full-scale investigative piece for the October issue, which goes on sale the first week of August.

—Joe Santoliquito

TV Fights of the Month

DATE	WINNER/LOSER	NETWORK	DIVISION	SIGNIFICANCE	MATCHUP	RESULT
5/25/06	Andre Dirrell W 6 Alfonso Rocha	FOX SN	sm	C	C-	C
This isn't the last time we'll see Dirrell on the canvas						
5/25/06	Anthony Dirrell KO 1 Juan Carlos Ramos	FOX SN	sm	C	C-	C-
Anybody see Dirrell miss a punch? Nah, neither did we						
5/25/06	Fres Oquendo W 10 Javier Mora	FOX SN	h	C+	C+	D+
Can someone explain how Mora got out of the first by the skin of his man-boobs, then lasted the full 10?						
5/27/06	Paul Williams KO 10 Walter Matthysse	HBO	w	C+	B-	B
Thus far, there is very little to dislike about Williams; this was a nice little brawl						
5/27/06	Jhonny Gonzalez W 12 Fernando Montiel	HBO	b	A	A-	C+
Okay, guys, Montiel likes Sugar Ray Leonard. We get it; sheesh						
5/27/06	Delvin Rodriguez KO 3 Luis Hernandez	ESPN2	w	C+	C-	C
We don't know yet how Rodriguez will do when pushed hard, but so far so good						
5/31/06	Cassius Baloyi KO 11 Manuel Medina	ESPN2	jl	B+	C+	C+
Right now, as you're reading this, Medina has already won and lost the WBA belt three more times						
6/2/06	Mario Santiago KO 7 Lenny DeVictoria	Showtime	sm	C	B+	C+
DeVictoria might have been in this if he had a punch he could throw in addition to the counter right						
6/2/06	Chad Dawson W 12 Eric Harding	Showtime	lh	B-	B+	C+
Anyone else starting to think Dawson may be the future at 175?						
6/2/06	Jesus Soto-Karass KO 9 Vince Phillips	Telefutura	w	C	C-	C
Circle of life stuff, Vince, circle of life						
6/7/06	Ishe Smith W 10 Patrick Thompson	ESPN2	jm	C+	C	C
Excellent return for Smith, who we wouldn't mind seeing get another crack at Sergio Mora						
6/7/06	Demetrius Hopkins KO 9 Michael Warrick	ESPN2	jw	B-	B	C+
Good for Hopkins, who proved two things: He can punch with the right hand, and there's a place in boxing for nerds						
6/9/06	Harry Yorgey W 8 Ronnie Warrior	ESPN2	jm	C-	C	D+
An easy one here: Has there ever been a less fitting surname for a fighter than Warrior's?						
6/9/06	Brian Minto W 8 Danny Batchelder	ESPN2	h	C+	C	D-
Shame on Batchelder for doing the near impossible: making Minto boring						
6/10/06	Andrey Tsurkan KO 8 Hector Camacho Jr.	HBO PPV	jm	C-	B-	D+
Apparently Edwin Rosario hit Hector Sr. so hard 20 years ago that today Hector Jr. is feeling it						
6/10/06	**Israel Vazquez KO 4 Ivan Hernandez**	**HBO PPV**	**world jf**	**A**	**C-**	**C+**
Who wants to bet that right now Hernandez' nose is still bleeding?						
6/10/06	**Bernard Hopkins W 12 Antonio Tarver**	**HBO PPV**	**world lh**	**A+**	**A-**	**C+**
It could not have ended any better for Hopkins; good for him						
6/10/06	Juan Manuel Lopez W 6 Sergio Mendez	PPV	f	C	B+	C
We're not sure Lopez is as good as advertised, but there's potential there						
6/10/06	Bobby Pacquiao KO 4 Kevin Kelley	PPV	jl	B-	C-	C+
Come on—you really didn't fall for Kelley's rap again, did you?						
6/10/06	John Duddy KO 7 Freddy Cuevas	PPV	m	B-	B+	B-
We're not sold yet on Duddy, but when a guy can sell tickets like he can, we'll forgive a lot—for now						
6/10/06	Julio Cesar Chavez Jr. KO 2 Aaron Drake	PPV	jw	C+	C-	C+
When this kid wins a world title, don't hate us for saying we told you so						
6/10/06	Tommy Zbikowski KO 1 Robert Bell	PPV	h	C-	C-	B-
Snigger all you want, we think this kid can fight a little and we'd be happy to see him trade the gridiron for the ring						
6/10/06	Miguel Cotto W 12 Paul Malignaggi	PPV	jw	A	C+	B-
Anyone else amazed that even during that beating Malignaggi's hair stayed spiky? What's in there, window putty?						
6/14/06	Oscar Diaz W 12 Chris Smith	ESPN2	w	B-	B	B-
Too little, too late for Smith, and a good, solid win for Diaz, who has been matched carefully since his loss to Ebo Elder						

Category Explanation: "Significance"—The importance of the bout to the division and the fighters' futures; "Matchup"—The quality of the fighters and the prefight determination of how their styles will mesh; "Result"—How the bout turned out, from the viewer's perspective.

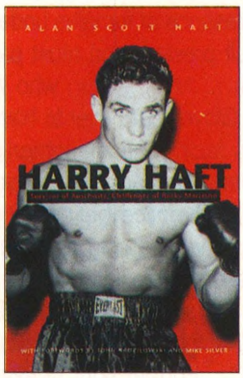
(RING championship fights in **bold** type)

Division key: h—heavyweight; c—cruiserweight; lh—light heavyweight; sm—super middleweight; m—middleweight; jm—junior middleweight; w—welterweight; jw—junior welterweight; l—lightweight; jl—junior lightweight; f—featherweight; jf—junior featherweight; b—bantamweight; jb—junior bantamweight; fl—flyweight; jfl—junior flyweight; s—strawweight

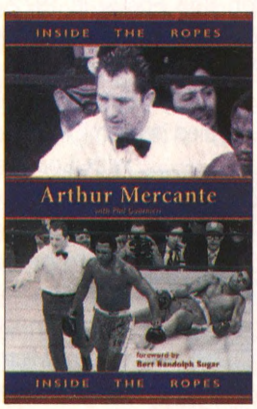
Network key: PPV—Pay-Per-View; Show—Showtime; FOXSN—Fox Sports Net; Uni—Univision; Telef—Telefutura; Telem—Telemundo; HBO L—HBO Latino

Boxing Bookshelf

Books written by relatives can be well-meaning hagiographies, or smear jobs written to deal with old wounds. In the case of *Harry Haft: Survivor of Auschwitz, Challenger of Rocky Marciano* (Syracuse University Press, 208 pages, hardcover, $24.95), we get a bit of both. Written by Haft's son, Allan Scott Haft, the book chronicles the life of a man who was a true survivor. To the author's credit, Haft is not depicted as a hero; he's cold-blooded, remorseless, and, at times, an abusive father. The message of the book could be that during monstrous times, only a monster can survive.



From his harsh birth (he fell out of his mother while she was working in the kitchen and landed on his head) to his grueling years in a Nazi labor camp, Haft literally fought to stay alive. After gaining notoriety as a bare-knuckle brawler, Haft escaped the camp in a bloody scene worthy of *Saving Private Ryan*. He ended up in America, where he briefly pursued a boxing career and searched for a lost love named Leah. Haft is still alive, now age 81, with a ring record of 13-7 (7), and a life's worth of hellish memories.



Of course, Marciano fans will be interested in the "three strange men" who threatened to kill Haft if he didn't let Marciano beat him in their 1949 bout. It's hard to believe Marciano would need "insurance" against Haft, a light heavyweight who had already been kayoed four times that year, but Haft was kayoed in three and insists the bout was fixed. There might be some truth to Haft's claim, but it seems like nonsense from an old man who can speak safely now that all parties are dead.

—Don Stradley

Eighty-six-year-old Hall of Famer Arthur Mercante Sr. has been one of boxing's best-known referees for the past half-century. A model of integrity and class, the Brockton, Massachusetts-born, New York City-raised Mercante has officiated many important bouts, capped by perhaps the greatest fight of all-time, Ali-Frazier I. At long last, Mercante, with assistance from author Paul Guarnieri, has penned a memoir of his exploits.

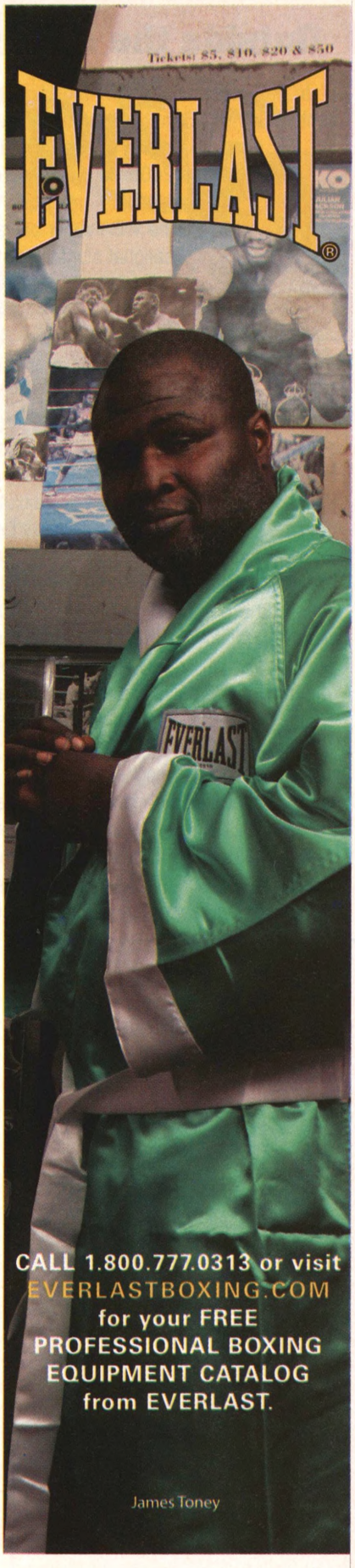
Inside The Ropes (McBooks Press, 230 pages, hardcover, $22.95), while sometimes clichéd and dry, nonetheless gives enough interesting stories to make it a worthwhile read. Mercante recounts his life, from when his father crossed the Atlantic from Italy at the turn of the century, through Mercante's own childhood, and up to his retirement from refereeing.

Some of the situations he encountered as an arbiter were at times unusual, exciting, or even downright dangerous, such as when he had to race several threatening and inebriated fans to his car after a controversial decision at a time when referees still had a hand in the scoring of a fight.

One detriment of the book is the brevity of the chapters, often just five or six pages in length. One is left with the feeling that several of Mercante's anecdotes could have been expanded upon. Moreover, his opinions on various fights and fighters, while no doubt his own, are nothing we haven't heard before from others. It is what Mercante tells us about his own life that is far more interesting. After all, a man who's been around as long as Mercante can't help but have stories worth telling.

Inside The Ropes can be purchased by phoning McBooks Press at 1-800-266-5711 or on their Web site at www.mcbooks.com.

—Mike Greenhill



Outside the Ropes

In early-July, **King Bhumipol Adulyadej** of Thailand presented **Somsak Sithchatchawal** with a trophy emblematic of being chosen Thailand's best athlete of 2005-2006. In March, Somsak stopped **Mahyar Monshipour** in Paris, France, to win the WBA super bantamweight belt in a sensational slugfest that will be given serious consideration as 2006's Fight of the Year ... **Top Rank** has filed a multimillion-dollar lawsuit against former Top Rank fighter **Oscar De La Hoya** and **Golden Boy Promotion**. The suit alleges that Top Rank had the right of first negotiation/last refusal for De la Hoya's next fight following the Top Rank promoted De La Hoya-**Bernard Hopkins** fight in 2004, but that Golden Boy did not act in good faith, asking for an exorbitant purse. Top Rank is seeking at least $3-million and is also seeking punitive damages ... Former heavyweight contender and **Muhammad Ali** opponent, **Chuck Wepner**, 67, was sentenced to one day in jail, 90-days home detention, and fined $2,000 in San Diego (California) federal District Court. Wepner pled guilty to mail conspiracy for his role in a mail order scam to sell fake autographs of Ali and other fighters ... Violence spread beyond the ring in June when fans became involved in a series of brawls in England and Australia. In Birmingham, English fans attacked their Scottish rivals at the Aston Villa Leisure Center after Scot welterweight **Kevin Anderson** stopped local favorite **Young Muttley** in the 10th round. Chairs were thrown during the riot that lasted more than 10 minutes and a woman was taken to hospital after her head was split open. "It was absolute pandemonium," reported an unidentified witness. Ironically, the venue had not hosted boxing in 12 years due to a riot that erupted the last time a fight card was staged there. Police in Perth and other Australian cities reported a string of brawls between drunken fans who had gathered at various venues to watch the televised super middleweight bout between **Anthony Mundine** and **Danny Green** in Sydney. Perth police said they were called to 13 hotels across the city to quell disturbance and that 60 people were involved. The worst incidents were at the Coolbelup Hotel, where three men were knocked unconscious, including one man who died in the hospital the next day ... Former WBC super middleweight titleholder **Davey Hilton**, 42, was paroled on June 20 after serving five years for sexually assaulting his daughters. Under the terms of his parole, Hilton can have no contact with his daughters, no alcohol, cannot be in the presence of females under 18 without another "responsible" adult present, and must participate in a sexual offender's program ... **Micki Pryor**, who was part of the first New York Golden Gloves card ever to have women boxers participate, in 1995, is facing manslaughter charges in Central Islip, New York. Detective Jack Fitzpatrick, of Suffolk County's homicide squad, said police believe Pryor stabbed her housemate, **Bennie Lenord**, during an argument over a room key. Pryor, who pleaded not guilty at her arraignment, won the Golden Gloves welterweight title in 1999 and participated in the first women's international boxing tournament in Finland ... Former light heavyweight contender **Mike Quarry**, 55, died on June 11 at The Seasons in La Habra (California), an assisted living community. Quarry's sister, **Wilma Pearson**, gave the cause of his death as pugilistic dementia, the same disease that led to the death of their brother, heavyweight contender, **Jerry Quarry**, in 1999. "He started not being able to talk or walk three months ago," Pearson said of Mike. "His brain was atrophying in many areas." Quarry was 32-0 when he challenged world 175-pound champion **Bob Foster** in 1972, but suffered a devastating, fourth-round knockout defeat. Quarry continued to campaign until '82, when he retired with an overall pro record of 63-13-6 (17) ... On May 30, former welterweight contender **Bobby Dykes**, 77, died in Miami, Florida, following an eight-year battle with Lou Gehrig's disease. Southpaw Dykes turned pro in his native Texas in June 1946, and moved to Florida in '48, where he became a very popular gate attraction. In 1952, he challenged welter champion **Kid Gavilan** in front of 17,000 fans at Miami Stadium, losing a 15-round split decision in the first bout between black and white boxers in then-segregated Miami. "I got a few death threats," Dykes told the *Sun-Sentinel* in 2000. Dykes, who also lost a close decision to **Ray Robinson** in 1950, fought until Match '57, when he retired with an overall record of 115-23-8 (54) ... Former Oriental lightweight titleholder **Shinichi "Jaguar" Kakizawa**, 58, died of lung cancer in Ashikaga City, Japan, on June 8. The light-hitting but speedy and skillful Kakizawa campaigned from February 1965 until September '71, compiling a pro record of 35-11-2 (5). After he retired from the ring, he wrote short stories and managed the Ashikaga JK Gym.

Somsak: Honored by the King of Thailand

Wepner: Guilty in mail order scam

Quarry: Dead at age 55

Dykes: Lou Gehrig's disease victim

Quotable

"He would get destroyed. I know it. He's been getting destroyed in boxing lately."

—Ultimate Fighting Championships President Dana White, accessing Mike Tyson's chances of success in the UFC, during a Playboy *magazine interview*

"I don't believe I ever really had it. It's been 10 years and I've never had a problem, a symptom, nothing. I believe, I've always believed, that it was a false positive. I think there's millions of people out there who think they got it, and they don't."

—Former heavyweight contender Tommy Morrison, speaking about the HIV test that ended his boxing career in 1996

[Ratings Analysis]

For Period Ended June 18, 2006

Heavyweights: No changes.
Cruiserweights: No changes.
Light heavyweights: Bernard Hopkins debuts at 175 pounds as world champion, thanks to his 12-round domination of Antonio Tarver, who drops to number one. Hopkins' entry pushes down everyone one spot and forces out Prince Badi Ajamu (10th last issue).
Super middleweights: Carl Froch replaces Robin Reid at 10. Reid drops out due to inactivity.
Middleweights: Jermain Taylor (world champion last issue) and Winky Wright (first last issue) maintain their places, respectively, after their draw. Bernard Hopkins (second last issue) moves to light heavyweight, which enables everyone rated from three to five last issue to move up one slot. Amin Asikainen enters the ratings at six, based on his eighth-round stoppage of Sebastian Sylvester (seventh last issue). Sergio Mora becomes the first cast member of *The Contender* to get rated, replacing inactive Kelly Pavlik at number 10.
Junior middleweights: No changes.
Welterweights: Paul Williams debuts at number 10 on the strength of his 10th-round stoppage of previously undefeated Walter Matthysse, which forces out Thomas Damgaard (10th last issue).
Junior welterweights: Kostya Tszyu (second last issue) exits due to the fact he hasn't fought in more than a year. Tszyu's departure enables everyone rated three through 10 to move up one place each, making room for Juan Urango to debut at number 10.
Lightweight: No changes.
Junior lightweights: No changes.
Featherweights: No changes.
Junior featherweights: Poonsawat Kratingaengym (fourth last issue) drops to bantamweight. Everyone from five to 10 moves up one slot, creating room for Takalani Ndlovu to debut at 10.
Bantamweights: Cruz Carbajal (seventh last issue) exits due to inactivity, and is replaced by Kratingaengym.
Junior bantamweights: No changes.
Flyweights: No changes.
Junior flyweights: No changes.
Strawweights: No changes.
Pound-for-pound: Taylor re-enters at four, based on going 2-0-1 in his last three fights against Wright (number two) and Hopkins, who also re-enters the pound-for-pound ratings at five after dominating Tarver (eighth last issue). Everyone from fourth on down drops two places to make room for Taylor and Hopkins. Tarver and Pongsaklek Wonjongkam (10th last issue) exit.

The RING
"THE BIBLE OF BOXING"

Pound-For-Pound

1. **Floyd Mayweather**
   Welterweight
2. **Winky Wright**
   Middleweight
3. **Manny Pacquiao**
   Junior Lightweight
4. **Jermain Taylor**
   Middleweight
5. **Bernard Hopkins**
   Light Heavyweight
6. **Marco Antonio Barrera**
   Junior Lightweight
7. **Rafael Marquez**
   Bantamweight
8. **Ricky Hatton**
   Junior Welterweight
9. **Jose Luis Castillo**
   Junior Welterweight
10. **Joe Calzaghe**
    Super Middleweight

For weekly updated Ring ratings, go to
TheRing-online.com

The Ring Ratings

For Period Ended June 18, 2006

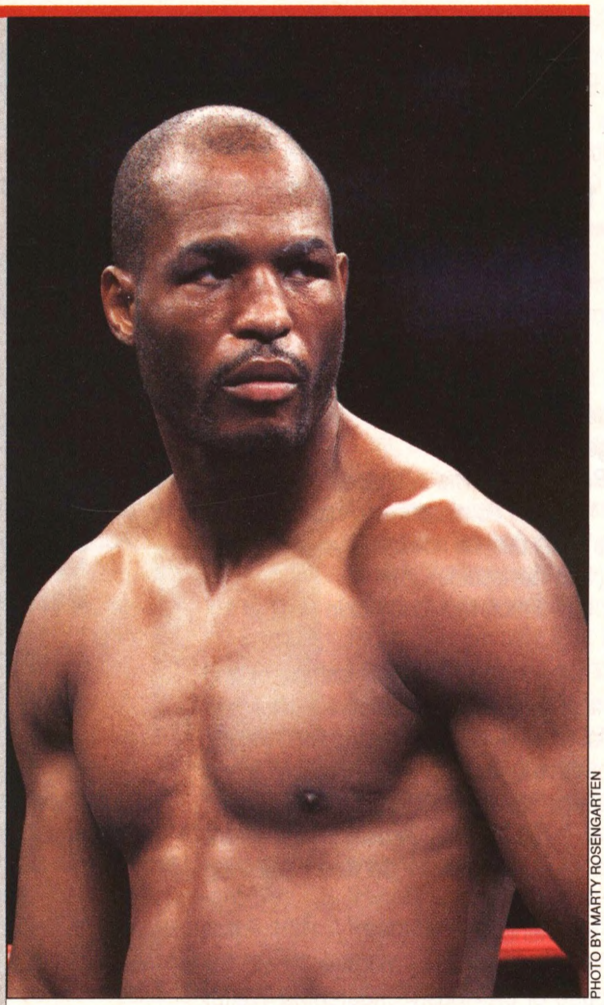


PHOTO BY MARTY ROSENGARTEN

Hopkins earns a new title as world light heavyweight champion after defeating Tarver

How Our Ratings Are Compiled

Fighters recognized as champions by The Ring are rated at the top of their division, with the top 10 contenders listed below.

Championship vacancies can be filled by winning a box-off between The Ring's number-one and number-two contenders, or, in certain instances, a box-off between our number-one and number-three contenders.

The only three occasions when a fighter will lose his championship status are when he retires, moves to another weight division, or is defeated in a championship bout.

Ratings By The Editors

Heavyweights

Weight Unlimited

Champ: Vacant

1. **WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO** Ukraine 46-3 (41)
2. **HASIM RAHMAN** Baltimore, MD 41-5-2 (33)
3. **JAMES TONEY** Ann Arbor, MI 69-4-3 (43)
4. **SERGEI LIAKHOVICH** Belarus, 23-1 (14)
5. **LAMON BREWSTER** Los Angeles, CA 33-3 (29)
6. **JOHN RUIZ** Methuen, MA 41-6-1 (28)
7. **CHRIS BYRD** Flint, MI 39-3-1 (20)
8. **CALVIN BROCK** Charlotte, NC 28-0 (22)
9. **SAMUEL PETER** Las Vegas, NV 26-1 (22)
10. **NICOLAY VALUEV** Russia 44-0 (32)

Jr. Middleweights

Weight Limit: 154 pounds

Champ: Vacant

1. **ROMAN KARMAZIN** Russia 34-1-1 (21)
2. **KASSIM OUMA** W. Palm Beach, FL 24-2-1 (15)
3. **SHANE MOSLEY** Pomona, CA 42-4 (36)
4. **SERGEI DZINDZIRUK** Germany 31-0 (21)
5. **OSCAR DE LA HOYA** Los Angeles, CA 38-4 (30)
6. **FERNANDO VARGAS** Oxnard, CA 26-3 (22)
7. **IKE QUARTEY** Ghana 37-2-1 (31)
8. **VERNO PHILLIPS** Aurora, CO 39-10-1 (20)
9. **DANIEL SANTOS** Puerto Rico 29-3-1 (20
10. **JOSE ANTONIO RIVERA** Worcester, MA 38-4-1(24)

Featherweights

Weight Limit: 126 pounds

Champ: Vacant

1. **CHRIS JOHN** Indonesia 37-0-1 (20)
2. **TAKASHI KOSHIMOTO** Japan 39-1-2 (17)
3. **JUAN MANUEL MARQUEZ** Mexico 44-3-1 (33)
4. **HUMBERTO SOTO** Mexico 38-5-2 (22)
5. **INJIN CHI** South Korea 30-3-1 (18)
6. **SCOTT HARRISON** Scotland 25-2-2 (14)
7. **SPEND ABAZI** Denmark 32-1 (10)
8. **HIROYUKI ENOKI** Japan 24-0-1 (18)
9. **NICKY COOK** England 26-0 (15)
10. **THOMAS MASHABA** South Africa 17-1-4 (10)

Jr. Featherweights

Weight Limit: 122 pounds

Champ: ISRAEL VAZQUEZ Mexico 40-3 (30)

1. **SOMSAK SITHCHATCHAWAL** Thailand 46-1-1 (37)
2. **OSCAR LARIOS** Mexico 56-4-1 (36)
3. **CELESTINO CABALLERO** Panama 24-2 (17)
4. **RICARDO CORDOBA** Panama 27-1-1 (18)
5. **SERGIO MANUEL MEDINA** Argentina 25-0 (15)
6. **GABULA VABAZA** South Africa 23-0-1 (5)
7. **STEVE MOLITOR** Canada 22-0 (8)
8. **DANIEL PONCE DE LEON** Mexico 28-1 (25)
9. **RIKIYA FUKUHARA** Japan 18-1-1(14)
10. **TAKALANI NDLOVU** South Africa 26-3 (17)

Bantamweights

Weight Limit: 118 pounds

Champ: Vacant

1. **RAFAEL MARQUEZ** Mexico 35-3 (31)
2. **HOZUMI HASEGAWA** Japan 20-2 (7)
3. **JHONNY GONZALEZ** Mexico 33-4 (28)
4. **VEERAPOL SAHAPROM** Thailand 50-3-2 (35)
5. **SILENCE MABUZA** South Africa 18-1 (15)
6. **GENARO GARCIA** Mexico 34-4 (20)
7. **POONSAWAT KRATINGAENGYM** Thailand 24-0 (15)
8. **RICARDO VARGAS** Mexico 39-11-3 (13)
9. **RATANACHAI VORAPIN** Thailand 65-9 (42)
10. **IRENE PACHECO** Colombia 32-1 (24)

Cruiserweights
Weight Limit: 200 pounds

Champ: O'NEIL BELL
Atlanta, GA 26-1-1 (24)

1. **GUILLERMO JONES**
Panama 33-3-2 (26)
2. **STEVE CUNNINGHAM**
Philadelphia, PA 19-0 (10)
3. **JEAN-MARC MORMECK**
France 31-3 (21)
4. **JOHNNY NELSON**
England 45-12-2 (29)
5. **CARL THOMPSON**
England 34-6 (25)
6. **WAYNE BRAITHWAITE**
Guyana 21-2 (17)
7. **DALE BROWN**
Canada 35-4-1 (22)
8. **PIETRO AURINO**
Italy 34-2 (16)
9. **DAVID HAYE**
England 16-1 (16)
10. **KRZYSZTOF WLODARCZYK**
Poland 35-1 (26)

Light Heavyweights
Weight Limit: 175 pounds

Champ: BERNARD HOPKINS
Philadelphia, PA 47-4-1 (32)

1. **ANTONIO TARVER**
Orlando, FL 24-4 (18)
2. **GLEN JOHNSON**
Miami, FL 44-10-2 (29)
3. **ZSOLT ERDEI**
Hungary 24-0 (15)
4. **ROY JONES**
Pensacola, FL 49-4 (38)
5. **CLINTON WOODS**
England 39-3-1 (24)
6. **TOMASZ ADAMEK**
Poland 30-0 (21)
7. **JULIO GONZALEZ**
Huntington Beach, CA 39-3 (23)
8. **PAUL BRIGGS**
Australia 25-2 (18)
9. **HUGO GARAY**
Argentina 26-2 (13)
10. **CHAD DAWSON**
New Haven, CT 23-0 (15)

Super Middleweights
Weight Limit: 168 pounds

Champ: JOE CALZAGHE
Wales 41-0 (31)

1. **MIKKEL KESSLER**
Denmark 37-0 (28)
2. **MARKUS BEYER**
Germany 34-2-1 (13)
3. **ANTHONY MUNDINE**
Australia 26-3 (20)
4. **DANNY GREEN**
Australia 21-3 (19)
5. **JEFF LACY**
St. Petersburg, FL 21-1 (17)
6. **MANNY SIACA**
Puerto Rico 20-5 (18)
7. **LIBRADO ANDRADE**
Mexico 23-0 (17)
8. **MGER MKRTCHIAN**
Armenia 23-2 (17)
9. **LUCIAN BUTE**
Canada 16-0 (15)
10. **CARL FROCH**
England 19-0 (15)

Middleweights
Weight Limit: 160 pounds

Champ: JERMAIN TAYLOR
Little Rock, AR 25-0-1 (17)

1. **WINKY WRIGHT**
St. Petersburg, FL 50-3-1 (25)
2. **ARTHUR ABRAHAM**
Germany 21-0 (17)
3. **FELIX STURM**
Germany 25-1 (11)
4. **SAM SOLIMAN**
Australia 32-8 (13)
5. **EDISON MIRANDA**
Colombia 26-0 (23)
6. **AMIN ASIKAINEN**
Finland 18-0 (14)
7. **SEBASTIAN SYLVESTER**
Germany 21-1 (9)
8. **KINGSLEY IKEKE**
Canada 23-2 (13)
9. **SCOTT DANN**
England 24-2 (17)
10. **SERGIO MORA**
Los Angeles, CA 18-0 (4)

Welterweights
Weight Limit: 147 pounds

Champ: CARLOS BALDOMIR
Argentina 42-9-6 (12)

1. **FLOYD MAYWEATHER**
Grand Rapids, MI 36-0 (24)
2. **ANTONIO MARGARITO**
Mexico 33-4 (24)
3. **ZAB JUDAH**
Brooklyn, NY 34-4 (25)
4. **RICKY HATTON**
England 41-0 (30)
5. **LUIS COLLAZO**
Queens, NY 26-2 (12)
6. **ARTURO GATTI**
Jersey City, NJ 40-7 (31)
7. **KERMIT CINTRON**
Reading, PA 26-1 (24)
8. **OKTAY URKAL**
Germany 37-3 (11)
9. **SHARMBA MITCHELL**
Washington, D.C. 57-5 (30)
10. **PAUL WILLIAMS**
Augusta, GA 30-0 (22)

Jr. Welterweights
Weight Limit: 140 pounds

Champ: RICKY HATTON
England 41-0 (30)

1. **MIGUEL COTTO**
Puerto Rico 27-0 (22)
2. **JOSE LUIS CASTILLO**
Mexico 54-7-1 (47)
3. **JUNIOR WITTER**
England 33-1-2 (19)
4. **CARLOS MAUSSA**
Colombia 19-3 (16)
5. **VIVIAN HARRIS**
Brooklyn, NY 26-2-1 (17)
6. **DeMARCUS CORLEY**
Washington, D.C. 31-4-1 (17)
7. **LOVEMORE NDOU**
Australia 42-8-1 (27)
8. **STEVE JOHNSTON**
Vero Beach, FL 39-3-1 (18)
9. **SOULEYMANE M'BAYE**
France 33-1 (18)
10. **JUAN URANGO**
Colombia 16-0-1 (13)

Lightweights
Weight Limit: 135 pounds

Champ: DIEGO CORRALES
Las Vegas, NV 40-3 (33)

1. **JOEL CASAMAYOR**
Miami, FL 32-3-1 (20)
2. **JUAN LAZCANO**
El Paso, TX 36-3-1 (27)
3. **JUAN DIAZ**
Houston, TX 29-0 (14)
4. **JULIO DIAZ**
Coachella, CA 33-3 (24)
5. **ACELINO FREITAS**
Brazil 38-1 (32)
6. **ZAHIR RAHEEM**
Las Vegas, NV 27-2 (16)
7. **JESUS CHAVEZ**
Mexico 42-3 (29)
8. **ISAAC HLATSHWAYO**
South Africa 25-0 (9)
9. **LAVKA SIM**
Mongolia 21-4-1 (18)
10. **JOSE SANTA CRUZ**
Lincoln Heights, CA 23-1 (13)

Jr. Lightweights
Weight Limit: 130 pounds

Champ: Vacant

1. **MANNY PACQUIAO**
Philippines 41-3-2 (32)
2. **MARCO ANTONIO BARRERA**
Mexico 62-4 (42)
3. **ERIK MORALES**
Mexico 48-4 (34)
4. **VICENTE MOSQUERA**
Panama 24-1-1 (12)
5. **JORGE BARRIOS**
Argentina 46-2-1 (33)
6. **ROCKY JUAREZ**
Houston, TX 26-2 (19)
7. **YODSANAN NANTHACHAI**
Thailand 46-3-1 (37)
8. **CARLOS HERNANDEZ**
Bellflower, CA 41-6-1 (24)
9. **ALEX ARTHUR**
Scotland 23-1 (17)
10. **JOAN GUZMAN**
Dominican Republic 25-0 (17)

Jr. Bantamweights
Weight Limit: 115 pounds

Champ: Vacant

1. **MARTIN CASTILLO**
Mexico 30-1 (16)
2. **MASAMORI TOKUYAMA**
North Korea 32-3-1 (8)
3. **LUIS PEREZ**
Nicaragua 24-1 (15)
4. **FERNANDO MONTIEL**
Mexico 32-2-1 (24)
5. **ALEXANDER MUNOZ**
Venezuela 28-2 (26)
6. **KATSUSHIGE KAWASHIMA**
Japan 29-4 (19)
7. **HAWK MAKEPULA**
South Africa 28-3 (18)
8. **JOSE NAVARRO**
Los Angeles, CA 23-2 (10)
9. **GERRY PENALOSA**
Philippines 49-5-2 (33)
10. **DIMITRI KIRILOV**
Russia 28-3 (9)

Flyweights
Weight Limit: 112 pounds

Champ: Vacant

1. **PONGSAKLEK WONJONGKAM**
Thailand 61-2 (31)
2. **LORENZO PARRA**
Venezuela 27-0 (17)
3. **VIC DARCHINYAN**
Australia 26-0 (21)
4. **JORGE ARCE**
Mexico 44-3-1 (34)
5. **OMAR NARVAEZ**
Argentina 19-0-2 (13)
6. **BRAHIM ASLOUM**
France 19-1 (7)
7. **TAKEFUMI SAKATA**
Japan 24-3-1 (10)
8. **VICTOR BURGOS**
Mexico 39-14-3 (22)
9. **LUIS MALDONADO**
Mexico 33-1-1 (25)
10. **DAISUKE NAITO**
Japan 28-2-2 (19)

Jr. Flyweights
Weight Limit: 108 pounds

Champ: Vacant

1. **ROBERTO VASQUEZ**
Panama 22-1 (17)
2. **HUGO CAZARES**
Mexico 22-3-1 (16)
3. **NELSON DIEPPA**
Puerto Rico 23-2-2 (13)
4. **ULISES SOLIS**
Mexico 21-1 (16)
5. **BRIAN VILORIA**
Waipahu, HI 19-0 (12)
6. **WILL GRIGSBY**
St. Paul, MN 18-4-1 (11)
7. **JOSE AGUIRRE**
Mexico 33-4-1 (20)
8. **NABUAKI MASUDA**
Japan 21-3 (3)
9. **EDGAR SOSA**
Mexico 22-5 (12)
10. **MUVHUSO NEDZANNI**
South Africa 14-1-3 (9)

Strawweights
Weight Limit: 105 pounds

Champ: Vacant

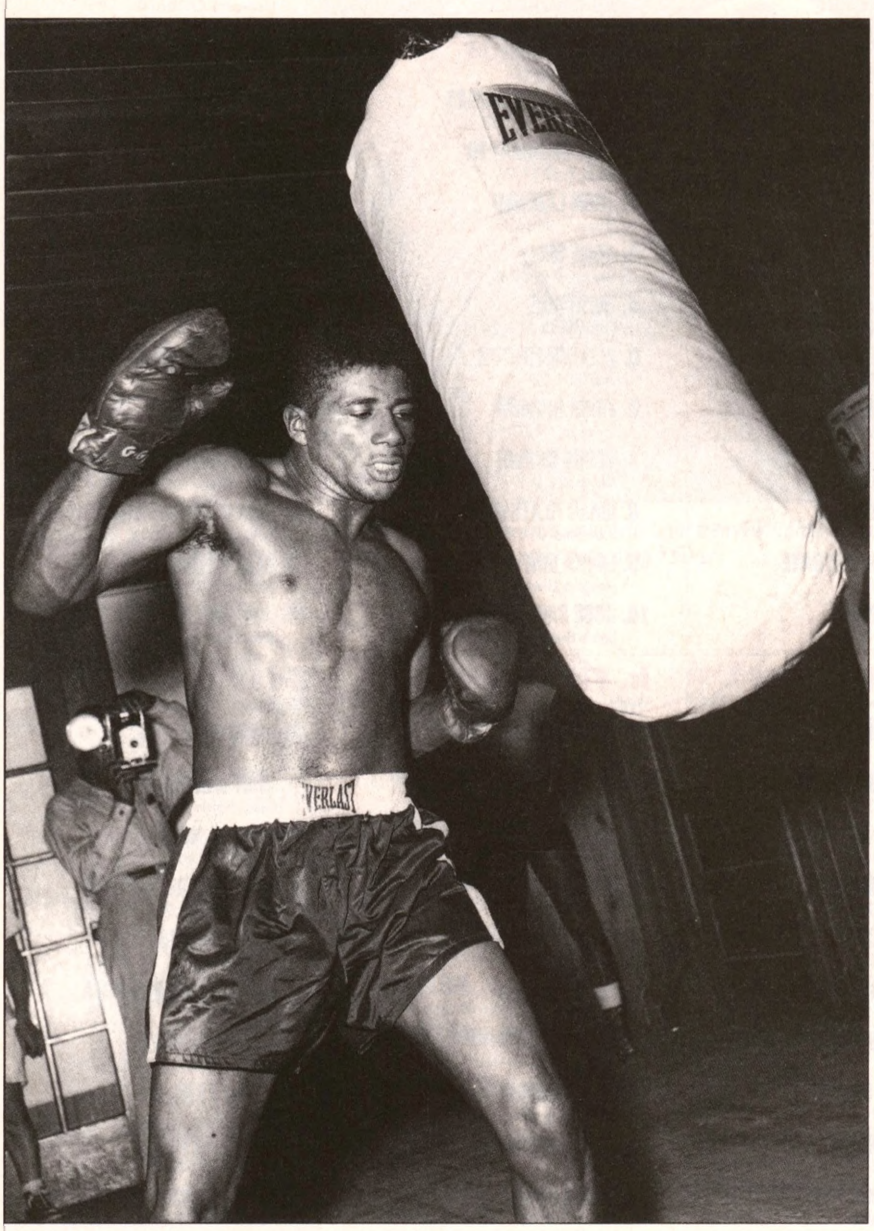
1. **IVAN CALDERON**
Puerto Rico 26-0 (6)
2. **YUTAKA NIIDA**
Japan 20-1-3 (8)
3. **MUHAMMAD RACHMAN**
Indonesia 51-7-4 (23)
4. **EAGLE KYOWA**
Japan 16-1 (6)
5. **KATSUNARI TAKAYAMA**
Japan 15-2 (7)
6. **JUAN LANDAETA**
Venezuela 19-3-1 (16)
7. **OMAR SOTO**
Mexico 15-3-1 (10)
8. **DANIEL REYES**
Colombia 35-4-1 (30)
9. **RODEL MAYOL**
Philippines 22-1 (17)
10. **ISAAC BUSTOS**
Mexico 24-8-3 (13)

By Jeff Ryan

A Credit To His Grace

Floyd Patterson liked to joke that he never officially retired, so it took his passing, on May 11 at the age of 71, to finally put to rest my hope that he'd someday make a comeback. It's not that the heavyweight ranks missed his hand speed (let's face it, by the time he'd reached 65, he'd become almost as slow as John Ruiz), or his entertaining combination of crunching power and eggshell chin (we've got Wladimir Klitschko for that), or that it wanted his peek-a-boo defense on display for all to emulate (today's big men get hit so easily, they could play peek-a-boo and still end up in the I.C.U.). No, what the division needed and will always need is Patterson's humanity and humility.

The two-time heavyweight king was, throughout a 20-year career that included two reigns, the antithesis of every negative boxing stereotype. He was an introvert intruding on extroverts' turf, a guy who weighed a fraction over 182 pounds when he first became king of the giants, a nice guy who finished first. If Patterson were in his prime in 2006, we wouldn't see a different person from the one we grew to know in the 1950s, '60s, and early-'70s. Hell no, today's game wouldn't have changed him. In some ways, though, maybe the example he set would have changed today's game.



Unlike so many of today's fighters, Patterson was a true sportsman

One thing is certain. We'd see none of the following with his name attached to it: impromptu wrestling matches on the floor during press conferences, flag-tossing incidents, postfight ring melees, arrests for carrying a gun in a car, taunting of opponents, positive steroid tests, cocaine rehab, unruly posses, lawsuits, and long stretches of inactivity. Not to mention five retirements and four un-retirements.

Hearing of the death of Patterson, who had suffered from Alzheimer's disease and prostate cancer, got me thinking how so many things that characterized him and his career seem to be missing from the Sweet Science nowadays.

You can start with sportsmanship. If he were competing today, Patterson wouldn't be a favorite of the gang at ESPN's *SportsCenter*, that's for sure. There'd be no jumping on the ropes, pumping his fist, and calling out half of the division after he won. And no crying and whining about bad scoring, training-hampering injuries, or biased referees after he lost. How gracious was Patterson in victory? Well, on the night his adopted son, Tracy, captured

the WBC super bantamweight crown with a knockout of Thierry Jacob, an achievement Floyd said made him more proud, happy, and excited than any of his own ring accomplishments, Dad was about as low-key as the parking lot attendants. Heck, Yoel Judah manages to draw more attention to himself when he's wrapping his son's hands.

Once, in the early-'80s, your columnist attended a show in Long Island, and Patterson was training one of the club-fighters on the undercard. Though his fighter was being mocked and taunted unmercifully by the forgettable punk he was facing, Patterson kept his cool and got his boxer to maintain his. For Patterson, it was always about composure.

Talk about easy-going. Leave it to a Patterson, twice kayoed in a round by big bully Sonny Liston, to visit Liston's dressing room and offer comfort after "The Bear's" mysterious one-round exit against Muhammad Ali in Lewiston, Maine. A lot has been written about the shame Patterson felt after falling to Liston, and how he donned a disguise in the aftermath of the humiliation. As a matter of fact, the continuous retelling of the story through the years must have been even more embarrassing for Patterson than the one-round blowout. But better a guy sneaks out of the stadium in a fake beard than he acts the way Roy Jones did after his non-effort in the rubber match with Antonio Tarver, smiling, joking, and failing to disguise not only his face, but the fact that he desired a fourth fight primarily for the payday.

PHOTO BY AL BELLO

Patterson with Colin DeVries, a boy the ex-champ saved from drowning, in 1992

If only all of the fighters of today had Patterson's guts. You watch Mike Tyson, Kostya Tszyu, and Arturo Gatti all surrender on their stools within a span of two weeks last year and remember Patterson enduring 12 rounds against Ali despite suffering agonizing back pain and having to listen to the champion's cruel putdowns. Patterson ran into "Ingo's Bingo," the right hand of Ingemar Johansson, in their first outing, yet had to be floored seven times before he was finished off. Did seven knockdowns (one of which had Patterson so woozy he thought *he* scored it) make him gun-shy? Hell no. He played bingo with Ingo twice more, a trilogy that landed them both in Canastota.

"They said I was the fighter who got knocked down the most," Patterson liked to say, "but I also got up the most."

Think of Patterson and you think of days gone by, of a time when fighters felt *compelled* to defend against the best. (He took the fight with Liston even though everyone, from his own trainer, Cus D'Amato, to President Kennedy, feared for his safety.) It was a time when closed-circuit television was king. (Nothing beats watching a pay-per-view telecast from the comforts of one's couch, but missing is the big-fight feel of sitting in a movie house and waiting for that blank screen to suddenly light up to raucous cheers.) It was a time when nothing surpassed the atmosphere of a big ballpark fight, a specialty of Patterson, who fought heavyweight title bouts in Yankee Stadium, the Polo Grounds, Wrigley Field in Los Angeles, Sick's Stadium in Seattle, Comiskey Park in Chicago, and a football stadium in Sweden.

Where have you gone Floyd Patterson? Whatever happened to the heavyweight boxer-puncher? Patterson had knockout power in either hand, but could rely on his jab and head movement to dictate the pace and control a battle if necessary. Too many of the current crop of big men, it seems, are incapable of such multitasking. The Hasim Rahmans and Samuel Peters never have a Plan B when their rivals are able to absorb their thunder, and the James Toneys and Chris Byrds aren't ever able to turn their science classes into chemistry lessons by showing us how a bomb detonates.

Nowadays, a ghetto upbringing is, for many fighters and other athletes, something to exploit, market, and take pride in. The more trouble someone got into, the most street cred he has. To Patterson, though, his rough years in the Brooklyn slums were something to downplay and overcome, something to inspire him to work with troubled youth so they might travel an easier path than he did.

Yes, Patterson was the antithesis. And yet, it's sadly ironic that in his later years, when Alzheimer's caused him to forget the names of friends and details of some of his greatest ring moments and forced him to resign his post as chairman of the New York State Athletic Commission, Patterson actually became a negative boxing stereotype, that of the "punchy" ex-fighter. He deserved a happier ending, but boxing, of course, has always had a limited supply of those.

As hard as it is for many of us to believe, the kid the world first met when he was mining middleweight gold as a 17-year-old at the Helsinki Olympics in 1952 is now gone. To put it another way, class has been dismissed. ■

By Ivan Goldman

Hatton Afflicted By Ruiz Disease?

PHOTO BY WILL HART/HBO

PHOTO BY NICK LAHAM/GETTY IMAGES

Ruiz (above) and Hatton (right) have turned into wrestling octopi

Has anybody else noticed that Ricky Hatton's grappling is turning him into a bleached-out, shrink-wrapped version of heavyweight John Ruiz? His strategy against tricky, quicker Luis Collazo was the latest, most grievous example. Hatton employed his own version of the pathological clutch-mongering that turned Boston fans against hometowner Ruiz, forcing him to take his show on the road to hostile environs like Berlin and Madison Square Garden.

Possibly the rare, merciless microbes that turned poor Ruiz into a mammalian octopus were still floating around when Hatton entered the ring in Boston. If the infection proves incurable, the tragically afflicted Hatton and Ruiz should consider fighting in aquarium tanks.

Hatton's got guts and determination, as does Ruiz. But so do the ironworkers who put up high-rises. Most of us admire ironworkers, but we don't pay to watch them work. The idea that Hatton's Manchester mates will desert him may look preposterous now, but when fighters produce stinkers in a series, fans fall out of the parade.

Right now, you could still place Hatton in the ring with Arturo Gatti in either Manchester or Atlantic City, New Jersey, and get a big boisterous crowd that would hang on every punch. But Gatti would consider it no big deal to go 12 rounds without clinching once. Put him in against Hatton, and, if it gets as far as the middle rounds, you can expect a dozen clinches per round. It's no secret which fighter would be initiating those clinches. And shoving, throwing forearms, and shoulders, and holding, and hitting.

PHOTO BY EMILY HARNEY

Garcia could have used some better advice against Rivera

But no, I haven't given up on Hatton yet. If he goes back down to junior welter, where he belongs, he can afford to tolerate a little distance and fight the kind of entertaining match we came to expect when he was a Showtime star. He moved up seven pounds because he was impatient to get big fights, which is almost always a poor reason.

They're talking about putting 5'6" Hatton into the ring with Oscar De La Hoya, who's finally grown into the junior middleweight division. While they're at it, they might as well stick an apple in Hatton's mouth and serve him up for dinner. Collazo's right hook gave Hatton serious trouble for 12 rounds. Oscar's left hook, which his partner Shane Mosley calls "the best left hook in the business," is even quicker, harder to see, and strikes with considerably more force.

Not even Hatton's parents, in their heart of hearts, thought he did enough to beat Collazo. Their faces told the story. But Team Hatton coyly planted the idea that they'd keep fighting in the U.S. a while, holding out the promise of additional big cards and the cash they generate. That made him, not Brooklynite Collazo, the local fighter.

If "The Hitman" is foolish enough to remain a welterweight, he must know Collazo deserves a rematch. All the more reason for him to move back to junior welter. Hatton has contemplated moving back and forth between the two divisions, depending on opportunities. Before he follows that scheme, he should study how well it worked out for Roy Jones when he bounced from light heavyweight to heavyweight and back to light heavy.

Worst Cornerman Counseling: Junior middleweight Alejandro Garcia came back to his stool after being knocked down twice in the first round by Jose Antonio Rivera, where he was informed that Rivera's "got nothing." Note to trainers: You are unlikely to inspire confidence in your fighter by telling him the man who just put him down twice inside of three minutes has nothing he needs to worry about. This remark created the worst credibility gap since—well, let's not get into politics.

Showtime's Garcia-Rivera title match was no less entertaining than De La Hoya's destruction of Ricardo Mayorga the same night in HBO's hugely successful pay-per-view event, proving once again that to find the best fights, you don't always need to peel off $49.95, plus tax, to the local cable barons. The two shows made a great night of boxing.

Rivera and Garcia, like De La Hoya and Mayorga, were willing to put it all on the line. They were also conditioned to the max. Rivera mixed up his attack, throwing a bewildering array of combinations, and was willing to commit to his punches against a dangerous opponent who might take him out at any time. As for Garcia, he's the kind of fighter that makes people love this sport. On the losing end of

Mayorga finds himself one of the many fighters complaining about Don King

Don and Carl King continue to defy the toothless boxing reform acts

most exchanges, he still answered aggression not with retreat, but with his own aggression.

It's fitting that Rivera, the Rocky Balboa of Worcester, Massachusetts, planned to return to his day job on Monday. And speaking of *Rocky*, Sylvester Stallone, while he accepted a deserved award in Las Vegas at the boxing writers' annual dinner, said, "No man who climbs those three or four steps is a bum." Stallone, a screenwriting man, has a way with words.

Paymaster Don King: Speaking of conditioning, here we go again—Mayorga was caught with a banned substance in his system. And speaking of money, Mayorga was yet another Don King fighter complaining he wasn't treated correctly. In Mayorga's case, the man's so loopy it's difficult to gauge the accuracy of his statements. Certainly his contention that De La Hoya belongs in a dress didn't prove accurate.

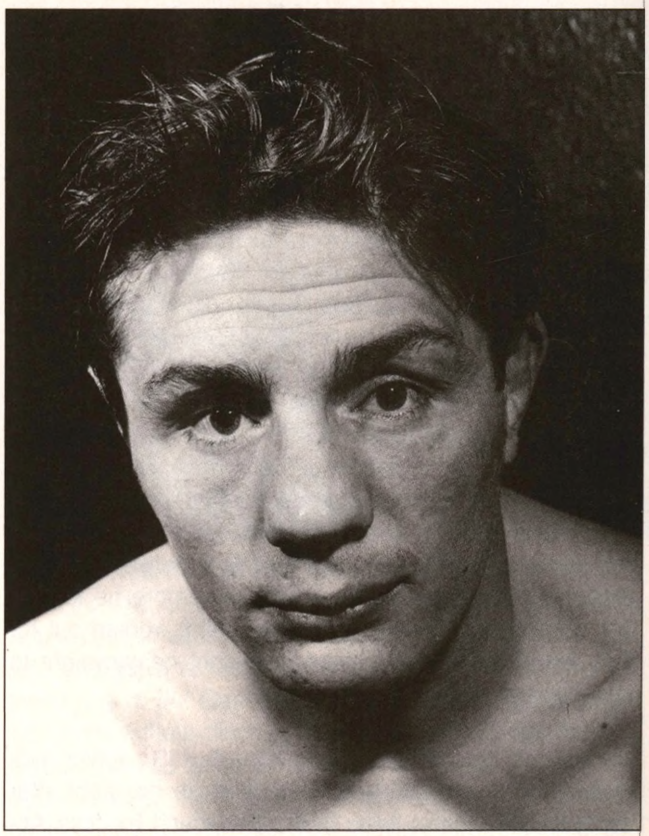
Whenever you see King's stepson, Carl, shepherding around a fighter, you know that Don and Carl are slicing and dicing him like a *Today Show* recipe. Because who's supposed to represent Mayorga's interests when they conflict with those of promoter Don King? Why, manager Carl King, of course. Don and Carl dig a black hole and tell the fighter to jump in. Consenters might as well turn over their watch and wallet first.

The Kings continue to conduct their interest-conflicted business relatively undisturbed after easily slithering through the language of Senator John McCain's toothless Boxing Reform acts of 1996 and 2000. Fighters tend to follow a worn-out trail after signing with King. He uses his clout to get them some kind of title match, and, if they win it, they ecstatically thank God and King for the opportunity, though not in that order. Eventually, they reach the place where Mayorga found himself—they count their money and decide maybe they ought to read that contract after all.

King claims he paid Mayorga a $2-million purse, plus a pay-per-view bonus for breaking through the 600,000 pay-per-view plateau with a spectacular 875,000. I'd love to see the cancelled checks.

There's a scene in *Dances With Wolves* where the Sioux chief asks Kevin Costner how many white men will migrate to their land. "Like the stars," answers Costner. That's also how many fighters have sued Don. I've always been intrigued that King, caught red-handed fixing his ABC tournament back in the 1970s, was later honored by *both* boxing halls of fame. Pete Rose was definitely in the wrong sport.

King won this recognition because he's promoted a string of great fights along with a fair number of stinkers. But his fabled genius is applied only to certain parts of the boxing



Protected Famechon was once floored by an amateur

equation—mostly in getting a deal together, attracting publicity, generating dollars, and then sucking them up with an atomic vacuum cleaner. But he doesn't pay much attention to training, so when fighters give him *carte blanche* control, the result can be a nightmare. Discovering a banned substance in Mayorga's system was just one of those nightmares.

Remember when Buster Douglas pounded lumps all over Mike Tyson's face in Tokyo and the King-controlled, undisputed world champion Tyson returned every three minutes to a corner that had no Enswell to treat the bruises? Before the fight, according to members of his entourage, Tyson was out in the bright lights every night, treating the whole city as one big cathouse. Don cut corners on training expenses, and the more demanding Kevin Rooney was one of those corners.

Not So Fast: California commissioner John Frierson shared a story about the time he was a 17-year-old amateur training in a New York gym. Somebody set him up to spar with a hot French featherweight who promptly "hit me hard with a big right hand. I hit him back, and I floored him. My dad was there, and he rushed over. 'What are you doing?' he said. 'Don't you know that's one of Blinky Palermo's fighters?'"

The downed fighter mobster Palermo had brought across the Atlantic was Ray Famechon, then training for his March 17, 1950, bout with the great champion Willy Pep in Madison Square Garden. "Palermo's people," Frierson recalls, "went around and collected all the film from the cameras." Famechon, who finished his career six years later with a record of 99-12-3 (27), lost the 15-round bout with Pep by unanimous decision.

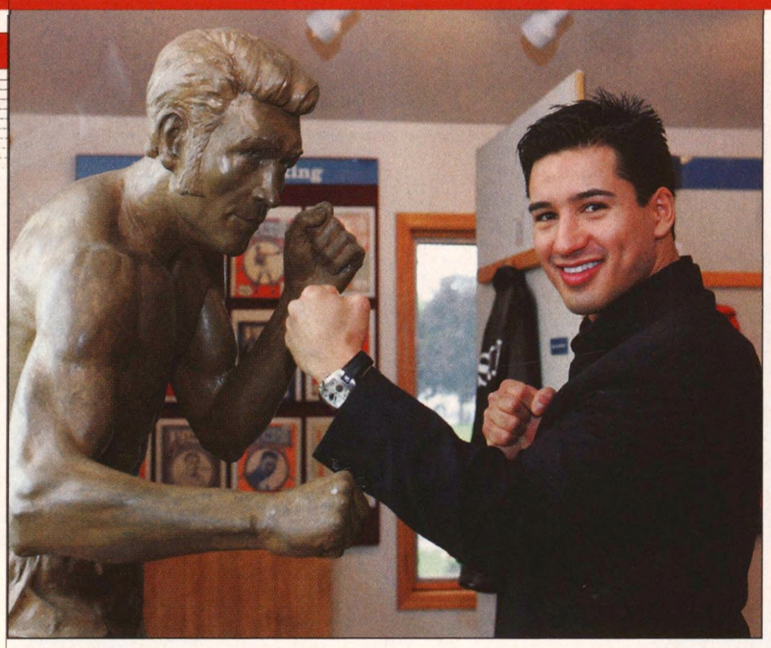
Magoo: On the Garcia-Rivera undercard, the split decision for Luis Alberto Perez over Dimitri Kirilov in their super flyweight title match had a bar-rag stench to it. Though he went down in the eighth, Kirilov controlled the fight, which is why Paul Berry scored it for him 117-110. Magoo recipients Mike Ancona and David Hess called it 115-113 and 114-113, respectively, for Rivera. ■

PHOTO BY EMILY HARNEY

The Perez-Kirilov decision deserves a Magoo

International Boxing Hall of Fame Induction Weekend 2006

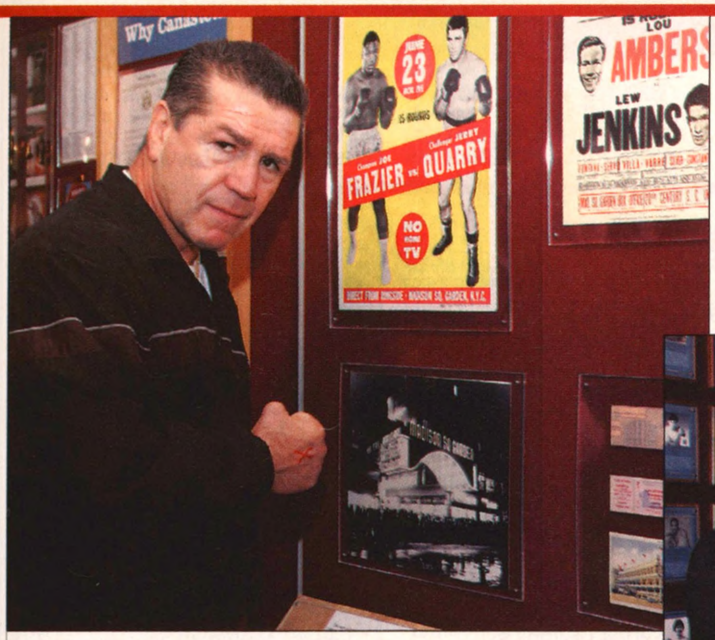
PHOTOS BY PAT ORR



You can take your best shot, Mario, but we have to warn you: This opponent has a cast-iron chin. Television personality Mario Lopez, who served as the Grand Marshal of this year's Hall of Fame parade, squares off with a statue of Canastota's second-favorite son, Billy Backus. Shortly after this photo was taken, Backus had Lopez in big trouble, but Mario was saved by the bell. (Sorry, we couldn't let an opportunity to make that joke pass us by.)

If Hall of Fame Executive Director Ed Brophy's goal was to make himself look as big as Primo Carnera, then he's picked the right guy to pose with. Standing just 5'1", Gonzalez is one of only two junior flyweight titlists ever to be inducted into the IBHOF—the other, of course, being Carbajal.

The spirit of '76 was alive and well in Canastota in June, as eight of the 11 members of the 1976 U.S. Olympic team reunited in celebration of the 30th anniversary of their momentous medal haul. In the back row, from left to right, are Leon Spinks, Howard Davis, Chuck Walker, and Ray Leonard, and in the front row, from left to right, are Leo Randolph, Louis Curtis, Davey Armstrong, and Charles Mooney. Randolph, Davis, Leonard, and Spinks all won gold medals, as did Michael Spinks, who was unable to attend.



Is it just us, or does Vito Antuofermo still look like a dude you don't want to mess with, even at age 53? Former middleweight champ Antuofermo is standing in front of the Madison Square Garden display at the Hall of Fame, which is appropriate, since he fought there 15 times over the course of his 59-bout career.

The living members of the class of '06, Michael Carbajal, Hank Kaplan, and Chiquita Gonzales, show off their rings while standing in front of where their plaques will now reside. Kaplan is a legendary boxing historian, while Carbajal and Gonzales together made boxing history, having engaged in a three-fight rivalry that made them the first sub-flyweight fighters to earn seven-figure purses.

When Bob Arum found himself in Canastota on the same weekend he was supposed to be promoting Miguel Cotto's fight with Paulie Malignaggi in Manhattan, fellow Hall of Famer Angelo Dundee had only one thing to say to him: "You're blowin' it, son!" Actually, the Cotto fight was the night before this year's induction ceremonies, which Arum certainly wasn't going to miss, since he was the man who promoted the Gonzales-Carbajal fights.

Fans visiting Canastota in June during the Hall of Fame induction weekend had to beware of one angry-looking Ken Norton. One false move and the Hall of Fame heavyweight who once broke Muhammad Ali's jaw looked ready to pounce on anyone making eye contact—or with a camera in their hands.

By Joe Santoliquito

Curtis Stevens Super Middleweight

The image doesn't easily fade, because Curtis Stevens gets reminded of it every day. There is always the faint what-could-have-beens, but-never-weres lurking on the streets of Brownsville, in Brooklyn, New York. Crabby, older men, bitter over lost chances. Some never got those chances.

It's that eerie visage that frightens the 21-year-old Stevens. It's the thought of seeing himself 15 years from now with a sledgehammer in his hands on a hot summer day, or toiling behind the wheel of a truck, driving down some street in Brownsville. Someone points at him, shaking their head and gasping that dreaded refrain "That's just another guy from the 'hood that wasted his talent."

The 5'7" Stevens is determined that scenario will never play out for him. The super middleweight is doing everything right now to prevent it. It's what has driven Stevens to a 12-0 (10) record. And it's the reason why he wakes up every morning to run five miles a day instead of heading toward a construction site, daydreaming about becoming a world champion.

Stevens admits he came close to letting his talent slip away. In his late teens, he had stopped boxing, frustrated over not one, but *two* failed attempts to compete in the 2004 Olympics.

Stevens was an accomplished amateur who had been boxing since he was five. Everyone in Brownsville knew who young "Showtime" was. But when Stevens lost to eventual Olympic gold medalist Andre Ward in the Olympic Trials in 2003, he tried a side route to the Games, using his Panamanian descent in an attempt to make that nation's Olympic team. That was thwarted too.

So he gave up boxing and took a construction job through a friend of his uncle, Andre Rozier, who first started Stevens boxing and continues to be his trainer today.

"I was doing construction, and it was cool at the time, when I was 18, making about $17, $18 an hour," Stevens recalled. "I was getting $150 a day, but it wasn't what I wanted to do with my whole life. The guys from the neighborhood would get on me about boxing again. I didn't want to stop and let my uncle down. He's the one that got me the job, and the one who got me into boxing. I remember waking up every morning and coming home around seven covered in dirt."

But from 5 to 18, all Stevens knew was boxing. He felt he was throwing his life away working construction. "My self-esteem was low, because I lost those two Olympic Trials fights," he remembered.

Then one morning it hit him, through some not-so-subtle hints and prodding from family and friends to get back into the ring. One morning, in July 2004, his ride knocked on his door to take them to their new renovation job, and Stevens said he wasn't going. He was going back to the gym. By August, he was training again. By September 30, 2004, he had his pro debut, knocking out Henry Dukes in one round.

"If I was on the street a little longer, I wouldn't be here, I'll tell you that," Stevens said. "This is the 'hood, and I'm a 'hood n_____. I just know how to handle myself. But I also know how and when to walk away from things."

(Continued on Page 91)

Pro Record

2004		
Sept. 30	Henry Dukes, New York, NY	KO 1
Oct. 21	Anterio Vines, Uncasville, CT	KO 1
Nov. 18	Wayne Cooper, New York	KO 2
Dec. 11	Anthony Konicek, Greensboro, NC	KO 1
2005		
Feb. 24	Darin Johnson, New York	KO 1
March 10	Raynard Darden, New York	KO 2
April 28	Shannon Miller, New York	W 6
Aug. 4	Jason Quick, New York	KO 2
Nov. 4	Corey Budd, Miami, OK	KO 1
Dec. 15	Kia Daniels, New York	KO 1
2006		
Feb. 16	Jose Spearman, New York	KO 2
April 20	Carl Daniels, New York	W 8

FIGHTS	WON	LOST	DRAW	KOs
12	12	0	0	10

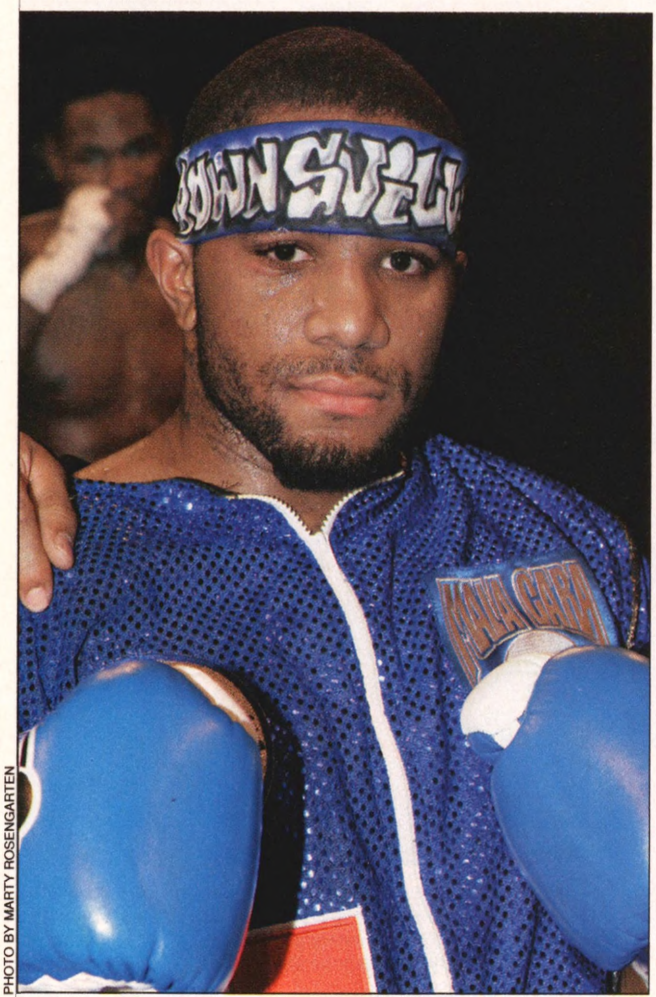


PHOTO BY MARTY ROSENGARTEN

Boxing Fight Posters, Programs, Art Prints, T-Shirts, Photos & Autographs

Autographed Boxing Gloves
(Single Gloves, Guaranteed Authentic)

Roberto Duran or Michael Spinks ...$150.00 ea.
Joe Frazier or Jake LaMotta ...$175.00 ea.
Muhammad Ali ...$600.00
Marvin Hagler or Bernard Hopkins ...$150.00 ea.
Sugar Ray Leonard or Shane Mosley ...$125.00 ea.
Vinny Pazienza or Tommy Morrison ...$100.00 ea.
Mike Tyson ...$250.00
Larry Holmes or Arturo Gatti ...$125.00 ea.
Oscar de la Hoya or Roy Jones ...$195.00 ea.
Carmen Basilio or Vito Antuofermo ...$95.00 ea.
Archie Moore or Lennox Lewis ...$200.00 ea.
George Foreman or Evander Holyfield ...$325.00 ea.
Felix Trinidad or Fernando Vargas ...$175.00
Vinny Paz or Joey Gamache ...$75.00 ea.
Willie Pep or Kid Gavilan ...$175.00
Hector Camacho or Alexis Arguello ...$125.00

Fight Programs

ALI/MATHIS or ALI/LISTON II ...$400.00 ea.
ALI/COOPER II or ALI/LONDON ...$350.00 ea.
ALI/FOREMAN or ALI/BUGNER (Closed Circuits) ...$100.00 ea.
ALI/FRAZIER or ALI/INOKI (Closed Circuits) ...$150.00 ea.
ALI/FRAZIER or ALI/MILDENBERGER ...$1000.00 ea.
ALI/FRAZIER II or MARCIANO/CHARLES ...$500.00 ea.
ALI/FRAZIER III (Closed Circuit) ...$100.00
ALI/HOLMES or ALI/NORTON III ...$125.00 ea.
ALI/NORTON (warehouse find) Now just ...$75.00
ALI/NORTON II or ALI/YOUNG ...$600.00 ea.
ALI/QUARRY II or TYSON/GREEN ...$500.00 ea.
ALI/ROBINSON or BASILIO/DEMARCO ...$450.00 ea.
ALI/SPINKS (VG) or ALI/SPINKS II ...$250.00 ea.
BENN/MCCLELLAN or HAGLER/HAMSHO II ...$50.00 ea.
BOWE/GOLOTA I or II ...$35.00 ea.
CAMACHO/DURAN or CAMACHO/RAMIREZ ...$25.00 ea.
CAMACHO/ROSARIO, plus Tyson ...$50.00
CARBAJAL/GONZALEZ, Delahoya/J. Maywheather ...$50.00
CHAVEZ/CAMACHO or DELAHOYA/TRINIDAD ...$40.00 ea.
CHAVEZ/KAMAU or PAZ/LUCAS ...$10.00 ea.
CHAVEZ/MAYWHEATHER II or SAAD/BRAXTON ...$25.00 ea.
CHAVEZ/TAYLOR or CHAVEZ/RANDALL ...$35.00 ea.
DELAHOYA PRO DEBUT or MARCIANO/CHARLES II ...$500.00 ea.
DELAHOYA/CHAVEZ II or DELAHOYA/CARR ...$30.00 ea.
DELAHOYA/GATTI or DELAHOYA/CHARPENTIER ...$25.00 ea.
DELAHOYA/QUARTEY or DELAHOYA/TYSON ...$45.00 ea.
DELAHOYA/MOSLEY or DELAHOYA/MOSLEY II ...$35.00 ea.
DELAHOYA/WHITAKER or HOLYFIELD/MOORER ...$45.00 ea.
DURAN/GONZALEZ '99 or FOREMAN/STEWART ...$45.00 ea.
FOREMAN/QAWI or VARGAS/QUARTEY ...$35.00 ea.
GATTI/ROBINSON II, VARGAS/CAMPAS ...$45.00
HAGLER/HEARNS or HAGLER/ROLDAN ...$66.00 ea.
HAGLER/MUGABI or HAGLER/OBEL ...$45.00 ea.
HAMED/KELLY or HAMED/BARRERA ...$40.00 ea.
HEARNS/BARKLEY I or II ...$35.00 ea.
HEARNS/HILL or HEARNS/ROLDAN ...$25.00 ea.
HOLMES/MERCER or LEONARD/CAMACHO ...$15.00 ea.
HOLYFIELD/BOWE I, II or III ...$75.00 ea.
HOLYFIELD/FOREMAN or HOLYFIELD/LEWIS ...$75.00 ea.
HOLYFIELD/HOLMES or CAMACHO/HAUGEN II ...$35.00 ea.
HOLYFIELD/LEWIS II or HOLYFIELD/RUIZ II ...$25.00 ea.
HOLYFIELD/QAWI or PALOMINO/STRACY ...$150.00 ea.
ROY JONES PRO DEBUT or SANCHEZ/LOPEZ ...$600.00 ea.
JONES/DELVALLE or JONES/JOHNSON ...$30.00 ea.
JONES/GRIFFIN or HAMED/MCCOLLOUGH ...$25.00 ea.
LEONARD/DURAN or HEARNS/CUEVAS ...$125.00 ea.
LEONARD/DURAN II or ROSSMAN/GALINDEZ ...$50.00 ea.
LEONARD/HEARNS I or II ...$65.00 ea.
LEWIS/BRUNO or LEWIS/MCCALL ...$45.00 ea.
LEWIS/TUCKER or LEWIS/GOLOTA ...$30.00 ea.
LOUIS/SHARKEY or LOUIS/GALENTO ...$600.00 ea.
LOUIS/NOVA or ROBINSON/DOWNES ...$500.00 ea.
MANCINI/CAMACHO or PALOMINO/GREEN ...$75.00 ea.
MANCINI/CHACON or MANCINI/ESPANA ...$25.00 ea.
PAZIENZA/BORGESE & JONES JR./JOHNSON ...$60.00
PAZIENZA/DURAN I or II ...$25.00 ea.
PAZIENZA/JONES or PAZIENZA/GRAHAM ...$40.00 ea.
ROBINSON/TURPIN or DELAHOYA AMATUER ...$300.00 ea.
TYSON/FRANCIS or LEWIS/RUDDOCK ...$50.00 ea.
TYSON/BRUNO or TYSON/HOLMES ...$100.00 ea.
TYSON/HOLYFIELD I or II ...$20.00 ea.
TYSON/MCNEELEY or HAMED/SOTO ...$15.00 ea.
TYSON/SPINKS or TYSON/WILLIAMS ...$85.00 ea.
TYSON/SMITH or TYSON/SAVARESE ...$45.00 ea.
TYSON/STEWART or TYSON/TILLMAN ...$75.00 ea.
TYSON/TUBBS or TYSON/DOUGLAS ...$250.00 ea.
TYSON/BIGGS or TYSON/BRUNO II ...$80.00 ea.
TYSON/RIBALTA or TYSON/NELSON ...$1000.00 ea.

8 X 10 Autographed Photos

MUHAMMAD ALI ...$500.00
OSCAR DELAHOYA or ROY JONES ...$80.00 ea.
JOE FRAZIER or FELIX TRINIDAD ...$85.00 ea.
LARRY HOLMES or ANDREW GOLOTA ...$45.00 ea.
MAX SCHMELING or ARCHIE MOORE ...$75.00 ea.
JAKE LAMOTTA or BEAU JACK (BW) ...$75.00 ea.
TIM WITHERSPOON or CARL WILLIAMS ...$20.00 ea.
JOHN RUIZ or ERNIE SHAVERS ...$25.00 ea.
WILLIE PEP or FERNANDO VARGAS ...$45.00 ea.
SUGAR RAY LEONARD or FLOYD PATTERSON ...$50.00 ea.
EMILE GRIFFITH or DANA ROSENBLATT ...$15.00 ea.
LENNOX LEWIS ...$85.00
CARMEN BASILIO or HECTOR CAMACHO ...$35.00 ea.
CARLOS PALOMINO or RAY MANCINI ...$35.00 ea.
SAAD MUHAMMAD or VINNY PAZ ...$25.00 ea.
MARVIN HAGLER or KID GAVILAN (BW) ...$75.00 ea.
EVANDER HOLYFIELD ...$100.00
MIKE TYSON ...$150.00
TOMMY MORRISON ...$65.00
KEN NORTON or MELDRICK TAYLOR ...$35.00 ea.
INGEMAR JOHANSSON or IRAN BARKLEY ...$20.00 ea.
ROBERTO DURAN or ARTURO GATTI ...$35.00 ea.

Fight T-Shirts

MUHAMMAD ALI • CAMACHO/DURAN • TYSON/HOLYFIELD '91
HECTOR CAMACHO • JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ • DELAHOYA/CARR
LEWIS/TYSON • CHAVEZ/CAMACHO • GATTI/MAYWEATHER
DELAHOYA/CHAVEZ II • DELAHOYA/GATTI • DELAHOYA/KAMAU
DELAHOYA/MOSLEY • DELAHOYA/MOSLEY - II • ALI/NORTON
DELAHOYA/QUARTEY • DELAHOYA/TRINIDAD • FELIX TRINIDAD
DELAHOYA/STURM-HOPKINS/ALLEN • DELAHOYA/VARGAS
DELAHOYA/WHITAKER • OSCAR DELAHOYA • ROBERTO DURAN
V. KLITSCHKO/SANDERS • HAGLER/HEARNS • MORALES/PACQUIAO
HOLYFIELD/HOLMES • HOLYFIELD/MOORER II • LEONARD/HEARNS
HOLYFIELD/RUIZ II • HOLYFIELD/STEWART • ROY JONES JR.
MERCER/MORRISON • MANCINI/HAUGEN • ROCKY MARCIANO
HOPKINS/DELAHOYA • JONES/GONZALEZ • LEONARD/DURAN II
LEONARD/DURAN III • MOSLEY/STONE • LEONARD/NORRIS
HAGLER/LEONARD • MAYWEATHER/HERNANDEZ • GATTI/DORIN
MAYWEATHER/RIOS • MORALES/BARRERA II • 92 OLYMPIC TRIALS
PAZIENZA/ROSENBLATT • IRON MIKE TYSON (XL Only)

***Just $18.00 each* (choose XL or L)**

GREAT MOMENTS IN BOXING

8"x10" B&W Action Photos — Just $4.50 ea.

- Robinson/LaMotta Fight
- Louis-Schmeling Battle
- Dempsey beats Willard
- Marciano slugs Lastarza
- Robinson beats Basilio
- Tunney/Dempsey Battle
- Sanchez/Lopez Battle
- Pep vs Saddler Fight
- Marciano's KOs Walcott
- Robinson slugs Gavilan
- Sanchez beats Gomez
- Ali floors Liston
- Hagler nails Hearns
- Leonard defeats Hearns
- Frazier upsets Ali
- Graziano - Zale classic
- Ali-Foreman Battle
- Marciano KO's Louis

8"x10" B&W Photos - Just $4.75 ea.

Ali • Basilio • Delahoya • Chavez • Corbett • Frazier
Dempsey • Duran • LaMotta • Leonard • J. Johnson
Jones Jr. • Louis • Marciano • Foreman • Hagler
Tyson • Sullivan • Robinson • Pep • Sanchez • Holyfield

8"x10" COLOR PHOTOS - $5.75 ea.

Ali • Delahoya • Hagler vs. Hearns • Mancini
Tyson v. Holyfield • Gatti • Duran • Foreman • LaMotta
Robinson • Hagler • Sanchez • Holyfield • Leonard
Leonard vs. Hearns • Lewis • Barrera • Morales
Ali vs. Frazier • Ali vs. Foreman • Ali KO's Liston
Marciano • Tyson • Jones Jr. • Hagler vs. Duran

BASEBALL CAPS - $17 EA:

GATTI/DORIN • CHAVEZ/DELAHOYA • TYSON/HOLYFIELD • MIKE TYSON
DELAHOYA/CAMACHO • GATTI/MAYWEATHER • TYSON/BERBICK
MOORER/FOREMAN • HAMED/BARERRA • DELAHOYA/RUELAS
PAZIENZA/DURAN • DELAHOYA/WHITAKER • HOPKINS/DELAHOYA
KLITSCHKO/SANDERS • HOLYFIELD/MOORER II • Team DURAN
DELAHOYA/MOSLEY • TYSON/HOLYFIELD II • JONES/GONZALEZ
DELAHOYA/QUARTEY • DELAHOYA/GATTI • TYSON/RUDDOCK II
JONES/PAZIENZA • OSCAR DELAHOYA • MORALES/BARRERA II
TYSON/BRUNO II • DELAHOYA/MOSLEY II • DELAHOYA/TRINIDAD
TYSON/SELDON • CORRALES/CASTILLO • MAYWEATHER/HERNANDEZ

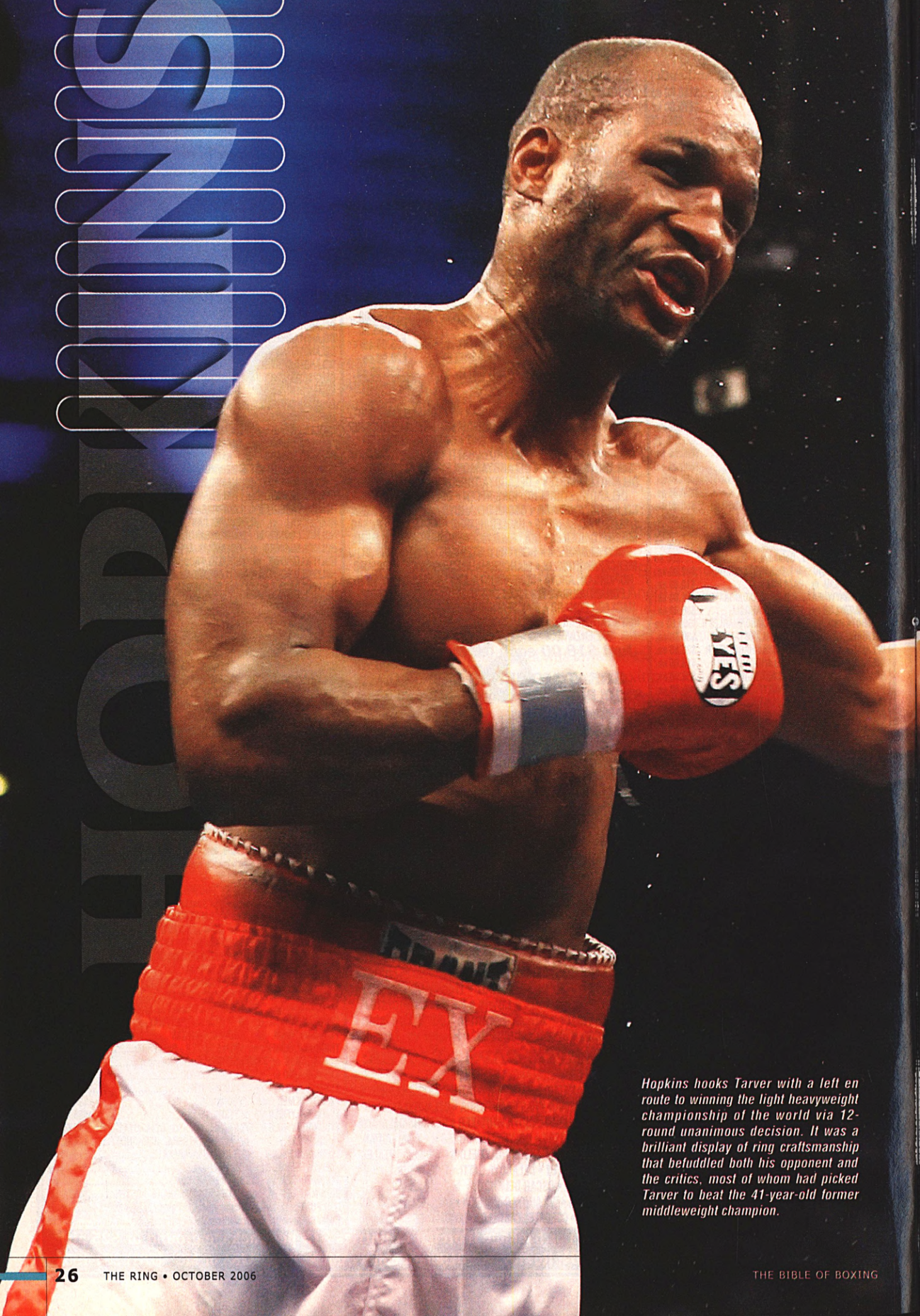
Fight Posters

CLAY/LISTON (repro.) or ALI/FRAZIER III (Repro) ...$25.00 ea.
CLAY/LISTON (repro.) on Canvas 40" x 24" ...$250.00
ALI/FRAZIER I (LeRoy Neiman Poster) ...$600.00
ALI/FRAZIER I (Closed Circuit) POSTER ...$300.00
ALI/FRAZIER III (Closed Circuit) NEIMAN ...$125.00
ALI/HOLMES ...$125.00
ALI/FOREMAN (Closed Circuit) Poster ...$500.00
GATTI/MAYWEATHER or CHAVEZ/ROBINSON ...$10.00 ea.
BOWE/GOLOTA or BOWE/GOLOTA II ...$50.00 ea.
CAMACHO/ROSARIO or CHAVEZ/CAMACHO ...$75.00 ea.
CHAVEZ/DELAHOYA or CHAVEZ/ALI ...$10.00 ea.
CHAVEZ/RAMIREZ or CHAVEZ/MITCHELL ...$75.00 ea.
CHAVEZ/TAYLOR or CHAVEZ/TAYLOR II ...$35.00 ea.
DELAHOYA/HOPKINS (English or Spanish) ...$10.00 ea.
DELAHOYA/CAMACHO or DELAHOYA/RIVERA ...$20.00 ea.
DELAHOYA/CAMPANELLA, Jones/Tate ...$45.00
DELAHOYA/TRINIDAD ...$25.00 ea.
DELAHOYA/MOSLEY or DELAHOYA/MOSLEY II ...$30.00 ea.
DELAHOYA/VARGAS or DELAHOYA/GATTI ...$30.00 ea.
DELAHOYA/QUARTEY or DELAHOYA/CASTILLEJO ...$20.00 ea.
DELAHOYA/RUELAS or DELAHOYA/HERNANDEZ ...$25.00 ea.
DELAHOYA/WHITAKER or DELAHOYA/GONZALEZ ...$20.00 ea.
DELAHOYA/CHAVEZ II ...$50.00
DEMPSEY/TUNNEY II (Reproduction) ...$25.00
DURAN/BENITEZ or DURAN/CAMACHO ...$25.00 ea.
FOREMAN/GRIMSLEY or FOREMAN/MORRISON ...$30.00 ea.
FOREMAN/SAVARESE or HERNANDEZ/GERENA ...$5.00 ea.
HAGLER/DURAN or FOREMAN/COONEY ...$35.00 ea.
HAGLER/HEARNS or FOREMAN/MOORER ...$175.00
HAGLER/LEONARD or HAGLER/MUGABI ...$65.00 ea.
HAMED/BADILLO or HAMED/MOLINA ...$10.00 ea.
HAMED/CABRERRA or HAMED/HARDY ...$15.00 ea.
HAMED/JOHNSON or HAMED/VAZQUEZ ...$10.00 ea.
HEARNS/BARKLEY II or LAZARRAGA/MEDINA ...$10.00 ea.
HEARNS/HILL or HEARNS/ROLDAN ...$30.00 ea.
HOLMES/COONEY or HOLMES/SMITH ...$35.00 ea.
HOLMES/SHAVERS or HOLMES/M. SPINKS ...$30.00 ea.
HOLYFIELD/BOWE or MORALES/PACQUIAO ...$25.00 ea.
HOLYFIELD/BOWE III or LEONARD/CAMACHO ...$75.00 ea.
HOLYFIELD/CZYZ or HOLYFIELD/FOREMAN ...$35.00 ea.
HOLYFIELD/DOUGLAS ...$60.00
HOLYFIELD/HOLMES or HOLMES/MERCER ...$10.00 ea.
HOLYFIELD/LEWIS ...$85.00
HOLYFIELD/MERCER or JONES/PAZIENZA ...$45.00 ea.
HOLYFIELD/MOORER I or II ...$20.00 ea.
HOLYFIELD/RAHMAN or JONES/WOODS ...$25.00 ea.
HOPKINS/EASTMAN or BARRERA/AYALA ...$10.00 ea.
TYSON/GOLOTA or JONES/GRANT ...$35.00 ea.
JONES/GRIFFIN II or JONES/JOHNSON ...$20.00 ea.
JONES/HARDING or JONES/HARMON ...$25.00 ea.
JONES/GONZALEZ or MCCULLOUGH/ZARAGOSA ...$15.00 ea.
LEONARD/DURAN II ...$40.00
LEONARD/DURAN III or LEONARD/LALONDE ...$45.00 ea.
LEONARD/HEARNS I or II ...$40.00 ea.
LEWIS/GOLOTA or LEWIS/TUCKER ...$10.00 ea.
LEWIS/GRANT or LEWIS/BOTHA ...$30.00 ea.
LEWIS/RAHMAN or LEWIS/TYSON ...$25.00 ea.
MANCINI/CAMACHO or MORRISON/LEWIS ...$45.00 ea.
MANCINI/CHACON or PAZIENZA/DURAN II ...$20.00 ea.
MARCIANO/CHARLES (Theatre, folds) ...$750.00
MARCIANO/MOORE (Professionally Framed) ...$8,000.00
MARCIANO/WALCOTT (Reprint) or LEWIS/TUA ...$25.00 ea.
MAYWHEATHER/CORRALES or MAYWHEATHER/CASTILLO ...$20.00 ea.
MORALES/BARRERA II (English or Spanish) ...$20.00 ea.
MORALES/BARRERA III or MORALES/AYALA ...$10.00 ea.
MORALES/MCCULLOUGH or MORALES/RAMIREZ ...$5.00 ea
MORRISON/HIDE or SAVARESE/DOUGLAS ...$10.00 ea.
MORRISON/MERCER or MORRISON/RUDDOCK ...$35.00 ea.
MOSLEY/TAYLOR or MOSLEY/DIAZ ...$10.00 ea.
NELSON/HERNANDEZ or MORALES/BUENO ...$5.00 ea.
PAZIENZA/CAMACHO or PAZIENZA/DURAN ...$50.00 ea.
TAPIA/AYALA or PAZIENZA/ROSENBLATT ...$20.00 ea.
TRINIDAD/WHITAKER or TRINIDAD/PETTWAY ...$20.00 ea.
TRINIDAD/THIAM or TRINIDAD/VARGAS ...$35.00 ea.
TRINIDAD/CHERIFI or TRIPLE HITTER - Duran/Sims ...$30.00 ea.
TYSON/TUBBS or TYSON/BERBICK (LeRoy Neiman) ...$150.00 ea.
TYSON/BRUNO II or HOLYFIELD/BYRD ...$20.00 ea.
TYSON/DOUGLAS or TYSON/SMITH ...$225.00 ea.
TYSON/HOLMES or TYSON/BIGGS ...$35.00 ea.
TYSON/HOLYFIELD '96 or TYSON/SELDON ...$65.00 ea.
TYSON/HOLYFIELD II - 5/3/97 (Cancelled) or DELAHOYA/CARR ...$5.00 ea.
TYSON/HOLYFIELD II or MAYWHEATHER/C. HERNANDEZ ...$10.00 ea.
TYSON/RUDDOCK II or TYSON/SAVARESE ...$75.00 ea.
TYSON/STEWART or TYSON/FRANCIS ...$50.00 ea.
TYSON/TUCKER or TYSON/TILLMAN ...$45.00 ea.
IRON MIKE TYSON or SUGAR RAY LEONARD POSTER ...$15.00 ea.
HBO POSTER featuring 11 color photos of fights ...$5.00
Roger Clemens vs. Pedro Martinez BB Fight Poster ...$50.00

www.boxingposters.com

Ordering Info.: Please include $7 P&H per package (Foreign Countries $15 per package ground or $25 air)

Send To: Bob Pace, 141 ROUTE ONE, Box 304, Rowley, MA 01969 or call w/AMEX, Disc., VISA or MC - (781) 284-4954



Hopkins hooks Tarver with a left en route to winning the light heavyweight championship of the world via 12-round unanimous decision. It was a brilliant display of ring craftsmanship that befuddled both his opponent and the critics, most of whom had picked Tarver to beat the 41-year-old former middleweight champion.

HOPKINS' THROWBACK NIGHT IN JERSEY

The New Light Heavyweight Champion Honors The Legends—And Himself

By Joe Santoliquito
PHOTOS BY AL BELLO/GETTY IMAGES

To watch him use subtle angles in the ring, to see the way he tucks in his chin down behind his shoulder, and the way he spins out of trouble—all nuances he absorbed from Jersey Joe Walcott, Archie Moore, Ezzard Charles, and Sugar Ray Robinson—it's easy to see why Bernard Hopkins has always been the perfect boxing anachronism.

The future Hall of Famer certainly seemed like he belonged in a different time period as he

Hopkins displays his new 174-pound body at the weigh-in. Thanks to his diligent work with strength and fitness guru Mackie Shilstone, Hopkins was able to add 14 pounds to his wiry frame without sacrificing speed or agility.

used his old-school style to take apart Antonio Tarver and win the world light heavyweight championship, before a gathering of 11,200 at Boardwalk Hall in Atlantic City, New Jersey, on June 10. You could almost imagine Hopkins in black-and-white, with men wearing felt fedoras seated at ringside, and the omnipresent smoke halo hovering above the ring as "The Executioner" stung Tarver with lead rights and then spun out of harm's way with a move he learned from one of the old masters he's studied throughout his career.

From his traditional style in the ring to the Spartan way he conducts himself outside of it, Hopkins' career has been an appreciation of history. Now Hopkins has firmly entrenched himself as a special part of boxing lore after becoming the first undisputed middleweight champion in 40 years to make the leap up and win the light heavyweight world championship. The first since the legendary Dick Tiger did it on December 16, 1966, taking the 175-pound crown away from Jose Torres.

Not many thought the 41-year-old Hopkins could do it. Not many, except Hopkins, which is typical.

He now joins an exclusive three-man club that also includes Bob Fitzsimmons and Tiger. Both Hall of Famers. Both boxing legends. It's a rare realm Hopkins can now officially enter, if indeed he plans on keeping the promise he made to retire after the Tarver fight.

History may look back and deem Hopkins as possibly the best fighter of this era, exceeding contemporary Roy Jones. First, there are Hopkins' record 20 successful middleweight title defenses, and now he can lay claim to something Jones never did: winning both the middleweight and light heavyweight world championships.

There's a popular misconception that Jones should be included in the mix of middleweight champions who won the light heavyweight championship. And though Jones was a two-time world light heavyweight champion, he only owned a portion of the middleweight title and *was never* the outright world middleweight champion as Fitzsimmons, Tiger—and Hopkins—were.

Hopkins has also outdone his idol Robinson, whose one attempt to win the light heavyweight title was aborted after the 13th round against world champion Joey Maxim on June 25, 1952. Robinson quit on his stool, enervated by heat prostration. Ironically, Robinson announced his retirement in December 1952, after his failed venture at 175. He returned three years later due to depleted finances and fought on for another 10 years as a middleweight.

Hopkins has vowed he won't follow in Robinson's wake.

At the postfight press conference, Hopkins gave the media a memorable farewell by repeating, "I'm done, I'm done," as if to emphasize he won't make the same mistake many past legends made in coming back beyond their prime.

"There's nothing else to do," Hopkins said, as he looked at his adorable young daughter, Latrece, at the table next to him. "I want to be able to see my daughter. I want to be able to know who her teachers are. She'll be seven in two weeks. I missed about three or four of those years in training."

For a second, you almost wanted to believe him. That this neat package of a career that began 18 years ago with a

Hopkins' lead right was his best weapon against southpaw Tarver, who never solved the riddle of "The Executioner's" surprisingly aggressive offense and shifty defense. It was a performance that rates among the most remarkable in boxing history and elevated B-Hop to new heights.

loss to someone named Clinton Mitchell—in, of all places, Atlantic City, *as a light heavyweight*—would end where it started with his magnificent performance against the heavily favored Tarver.

But it was hard to believe.

How can Hopkins step away after such a dominating performance?

It was as if Hopkins had sauntered through a time machine back to September 29, 2001, the night he stunned the boxing world by dismantling what was believed to be an unbeatable Felix "Tito" Trinidad.

"What he did against Tarver was a Hopkins' performance reminiscent of what he did against Trinidad in 2001, which was his previous masterpiece," said Jim Lampley, HBO's blow-by-blow man. "This win over Tarver becomes masterpiece number two. It was an amazing performance. This is part of Hopkins' prison-smart evolution. He's reached a point of where he has profound technical command."

Command that has precedence. It's why The Executioner makes constant references to Walcott, Moore, and Robinson. Hopkins is the rare modern fighter who appreciates the complexities of the Sweet Science.

"It's also his way of trying to defend his style," Lampley added. "I've said many times during a Hopkins fight that he drains entertainment value out of the fight. But let's face it, Bernard is not just a naturally defensive personality in the ring, he has a naturally defensive personality outside of it. The subtle references to Robinson and Charles is his way of saying 'My style is legitimate, it's time honored, and it demands respect.'"

Against the lethargic Tarver, 24-4 (19), the signs were certainly all there that The Executioner's style can still sting. What was different is that Hopkins came out uncharacteristically—striking first.

Once Hopkins, 47-4-1 (32), started

connecting with the lead right, Tarver had no answers. The 3-to-1 favorite looked like Droopy Dog, confused and perplexed as to how to answer the old man who had seemingly found a fountain of youth.

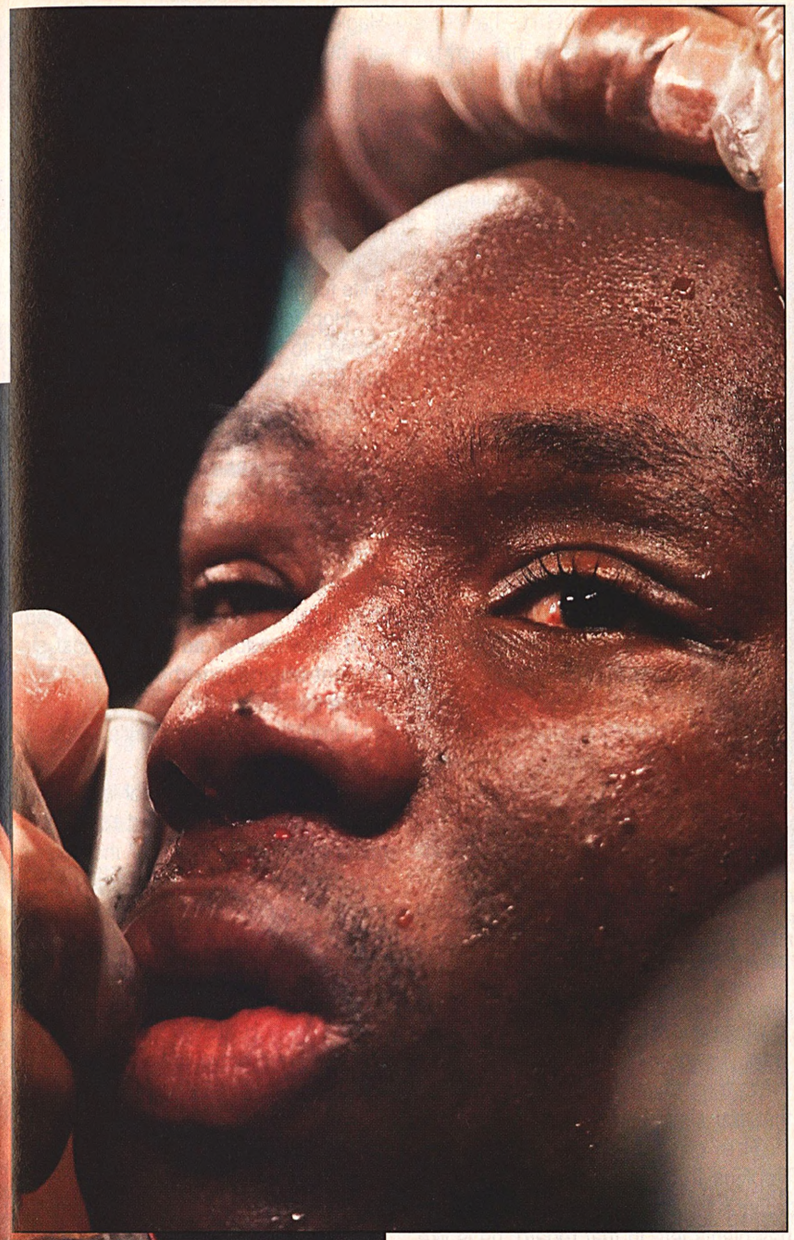
By the third round, Hopkins, a lean and lively 174 (thanks to his work with strength and condition guru Mackie Shilstone), had Tarver, 174, stumped, hesitant, and backing up. In the fourth, Tarver's only quality round, he began to come forward and connect with straight lefts. For a brief moment, roles were reversed, and he had Hopkins retreating to the ropes.

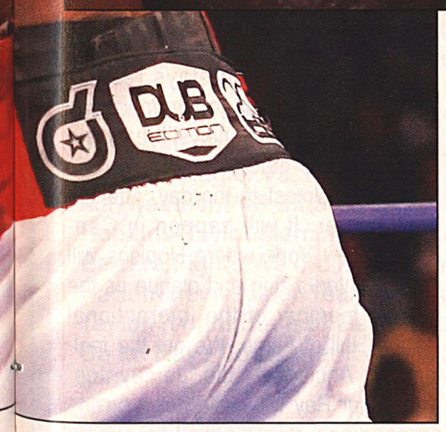
But just as quickly, Hopkins reasserted his will and took over the fight for good in the fifth, when he caught Tarver off-balance with a right that knocked him backward. The reeling fighter briefly grazed the canvas with his left glove to regain his balance, but it was enough for referee Benjy Esteves to correctly step in and issue an eight-count. From there on, Hopkins stalked the defending champion, who did next to nothing to counteract the savvy veteran who was, round by round, taking the title away.

In the seventh, the pro-Hopkins crowd began chanting "B-Hop, B-Hop." The mantra grew louder as the fight wore on.

Hopkins easily won 10 of the 12 rounds on the three official scorecards. Judges Al Bennett, John Coyle, and Clark Sammartino all scored it 118-109

After scoring a flash knockdown in the fifth round, Hopkins was in total control, hammering his foe with clean punches and outmaneuvering him with the kind of moves seldom seen today. To his credit, Tarver was gracious in defeat and offered no excuses.

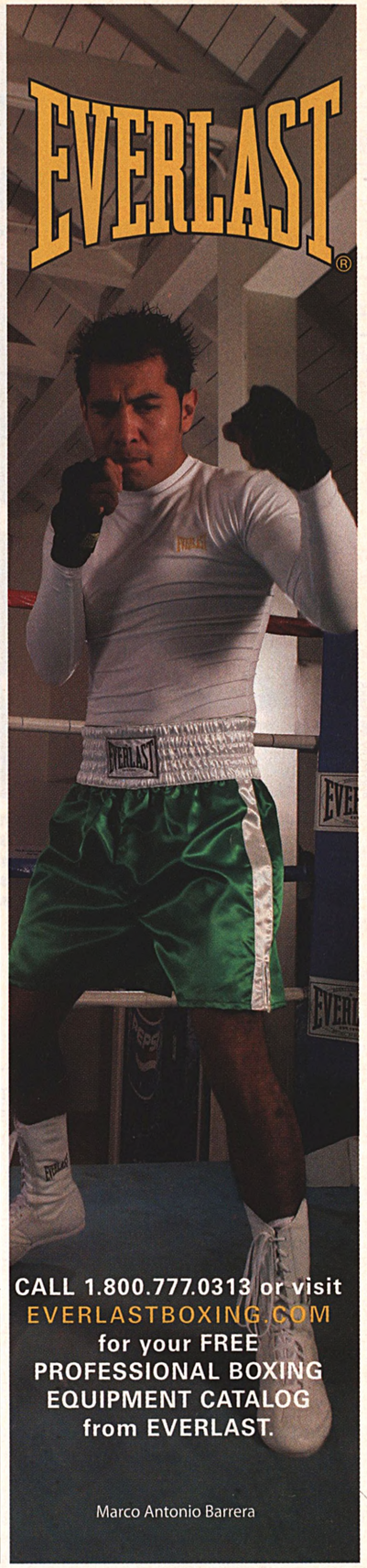




The Enswell is applied to Tarver's swollen face between rounds of the Hopkins bout. The defending champ's situation was so hopeless, rather than telling him he needed a knockout to win going in to the final round, trainer Buddy McGirt instead urged him to play it safe and not get hurt.

for Hopkins, as did THE RING, which only awarded the fourth and eighth rounds to Tarver, agreeing with Bennett and Sammartino.

"We knew Tarver was a much bigger man, and we knew he had to lose a lot of weight, so we wanted to test Tarver early and zap his energy," said Naazim Richardson, Hopkins' co-trainer with John David Jackson. "We had no doubts



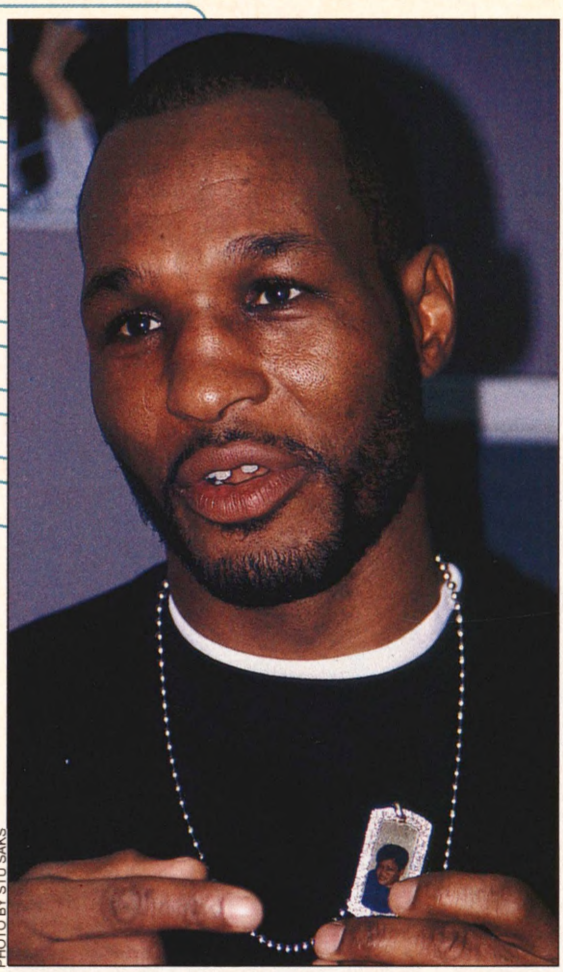


PHOTO BY STU SAKS

Hopkins displays the pendant he wears that bears a likeness of his diseased mother. Before she died, he promised her that he would retire at the age of 40. Hopkins had to extend that deadline in order to take the Tarver fight, but most of those close to him believe Hopkins will now honor his mother's wishes.

that Bernard was stronger than Tarver. And Bernard has always been good with that lead right hand against lefties. He throws it from different angles.

"We kept hearing that Tarver was the bigger man. The only thing that has to be factored in is that Hopkins was 160 for 16 years with a 28-inch waist. I asked Bernard to move to super middleweight a few years ago, but he wanted to break the record for middleweight defenses. He probably should have been fighting at least at super middleweight for a few years now."

CompuBox's punch stats revealed that Hopkins landed 126 of 343 power-shots and a total of 133 punches of 417 thrown. Tarver, on the other hand, connected on only 78 of 437 punches thrown. In fact, Tarver's work rate was so low that he landed single digits in 10 of 12 rounds.

The fight became so one-sided that Buddy McGirt, Tarver's trainer, gave his fighter implicit instructions to go into survival mode for the 12th round, telling Tarver to "hold on and don't get hurt," obviously feeling that the fight was out of reach.

"Tarver had nothing," Lampley said. "He looked like Roy Jones looked against him in the first six rounds of the first Jones-Tarver fight. Tarver lost over 40 pounds, and it was abundantly clear that he had nothing left, just like Jones didn't have anything coming down from heavyweight in his first fight against Tarver. To me, there was a tremendous irony in that. Just as I said in the commentary of the fight, Tarver just wanted to finish against Hopkins, like Jones wanted to finish against Tarver in their third fight."

Beating Tarver so decisively added another coating of glory to Hopkins' Hall of Fame career, and the obvious question is whether or not he can walk away following such an exhilarating achievement. The game grips most fighters and twists them to such intoxicating heights that they simply can't let go.

The one thing that separates Hopkins from so many fighters in the twilight of their careers is that he still has plenty left. In that regard, he is like Jim Brown, who quit his brilliant career in the National Football League while still the NFL's top rusher. Sports fans never saw a shadow of what Brown was in his prime, as they did Michael Jordan, clanging last-second shots off the rim while playing for the Washington Wizards, or Willie Mays, falling in the outfield during his last days with the New York Mets.

"How many times have we seen fighters who have walked away, only to come back," Lampley said. "I always say two fighters in history have walked away from guaranteed eight-figure paydays, Marvin Hagler and Lennox Lewis. There might not be an eight-figure payday out there for Hopkins. Plus, he walks away with income possibilities still in from of him."

True, as East Coast president of Golden Boy Promotions, Hopkins has found a new niche to conquer. He's rubbing elbows with corporate types, a gratifying step for an ex-con who made a life for himself with boxing.

"Hopkins is offering signals that he's moving to a different place in terms of his business relationship with the sport," Lampley said. "Oscar is very much in the same position as Hopkins. If Oscar chooses not to fight again, that would be further reinforcement for Bernard to step out too. They'll retire in order, Bernard, Oscar, Marco Antonio Barrera, and then Shane Mosley. Then they'll form this united business suit front, moving forward as the most significant business in boxing. Oscar is where the money is."

Larry Merchant, Lampley's HBO partner, agreed.

"Hopkins likes the idea of indulging in the promotional game, and I think he's going to give that a crack," the veteran broadcaster said. "When fighters retire, they're very sincere about it. Bernard has a lot of money and all of the success he can hope for. He likes the idea of being involved with Golden Boy. He gets a feeling of status. He told us that he'd come back from the grave to fight for $20-million. But that might not be out there."

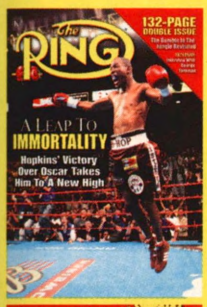
Careers in sports are condensed forms of life, Merchant pointed out. The natural flow of life follows birth, maturing, adulthood, and then disappearing.

"We all get off the stage sometime," Merchant said.

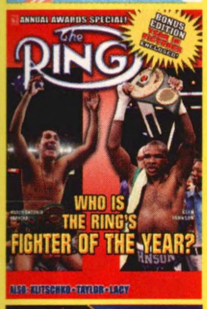
If Hopkins indeed stays retired, which everyone close to him maintains he will, The Executioner still has one more stage to mount. That will come five years, almost to the day, after he beat Tarver. It will happen in Canastota, New York, where Hopkins will be presented a ring and plaque as the newest member of the International Boxing Hall of Fame. We get the feeling that Ancient Archie, Jersey Joe, and Sugar Ray will smile down on the proceedings as a kindred soul joins their illustrious ranks. ■

The RING SQUARED

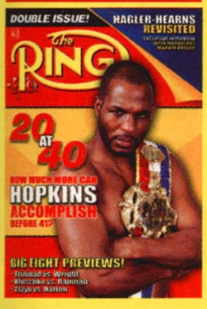
Limited quantities of *The Ring's* popular 132-page double issues are available by mail order. Act now before they're gone!



Vol. II, 2004: Cover Story: A Leap To Immortality: Hopkins' Victory Over Oscar Takes Him To A New High. **Magazine Within A Magazine:** 30 Years Later: The Rumble In The Jungle Revisited. **Also Inside:** Andre Ward, Erik Morales, Fernando Vargas, Shane Mosley, Pete Ranzany.

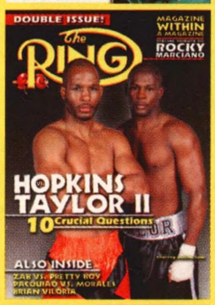


Vol. III, 2005: Cover Story: Glen Johnson—Fighter of the Year. **Special Bonus Issue:** The Year In Pictures. **Also Inside:** Year-end awards, Vitali Klitschko, Jermain Taylor & Jeff Lacy.

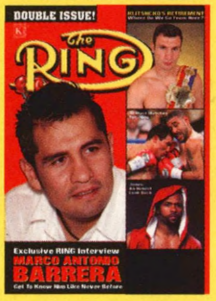


Vol. IV, 2005: Cover Story: 20 At 40: How Much More Can Hopkins Accomplish Before 41? **Magazine Within A Magazine:** 20 Years Later: Hagler vs. Hearns Revisited. **Also Inside:** Trinidad-Wright preview, Hasim Rahman, Tszyu-Hatton preview, Larios-McCullough, Max Schmeling.

Vol. V, 2005: Cover Story: "Pretty Boy" Floyd: Just As Great As He Says He Is … Maybe Even Better. **Special Bonus Section:** The Pound-For-Pound Elite. **Also Inside:** Tarver-Jones II, Mike Tyson, quitters.

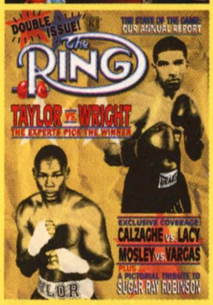


Vol. VI, 2005: Cover Story: Hopkins vs. Taylor II: 10 Crucial Questions Surrounding The Middleweight Championship. **Magazine Within A Magazine:** Tribute To Rocky Marciano. **Also Inside:** Raheem-Morales, Judah & Mayweather, Brian Viloria, *Box Like The Pros* book excerpt.



March 2006: Cover Story: Exclusive *Ring* Interview: Marco Antonio Barrera. **Special Bonus Section:** The 10 Fights We'd Like To See. **Also Inside:** Vitali Klitschko, *The Contender,* Roy Jones, Pongsaklek Wonjongkam, Nigel Benn.

May 2006: Cover Story: Forget Judah! It's Time To Bring Hatton And Mayweather Together! **Magazine Within A Magazine:** The Year In Pictures. **Also Inside:** Nicolay Valuev, Ray Mancini, top 10 trainers.



July 2006: Cover Story: Taylor vs. Wright: The Experts Pick The Winner. **Special Bonus Section:** The State of the Game. **Also Inside:** Joe Calzaghe, Mosley-Vargas, Emanuel Augustus, Tony DeMarco, Sugar Ray Robinson.

September 2006: Gold Standard! Oscar's Brilliant Performance A Matchmaker's Dream. **Special Bonus Section:** *The Contender,* Season 2. **Also Inside:** Ricky Hatton, Wladimir Klitschko, Lou DiBella, Floyd Patterson.

Please send me **THE RING DOUBLES** I have checked below. I have enclosed a check or money order for $7.50, payable to London Publishing Co., for each issue I am ordering (shipping and handling included).

- ☐ **Hopkins/Ali vs. Foreman** (Vol. II, 2004)
- ☐ **Johnson/Year in Pictures** (Vol. III, 2005)
- ☐ **Hopkins/Hagler vs. Hearns** (Vol. IV, 2005)
- ☐ **Mayweather/P4P Elite** (Vol. V, 2005)
- ☐ **Hopkins-Taylor/Marciano** (Vol. VI, 2005)
- ☐ **Barrera/Fights We'd Like** (March 2006)
- ☐ **Hatton-Mayweather/Year in Pictures** (May 2006)
- ☐ **Taylor-Wright/State of Game** (July 2006)
- ☐ **De La Hoya/Contender** (September 2006)

SEND TO:
London Publishing Co.
P.O. Box 910
Ft. Washington, PA 19034

Please indicate method of payment:

☐ Check or money order
(enclosed and payable to London Publishing Co.)

☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard

Card #__ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __

Expiration Date: ___/___
MO/YR

Signature: _____

NAME_____

ADDRESS_____APT.____

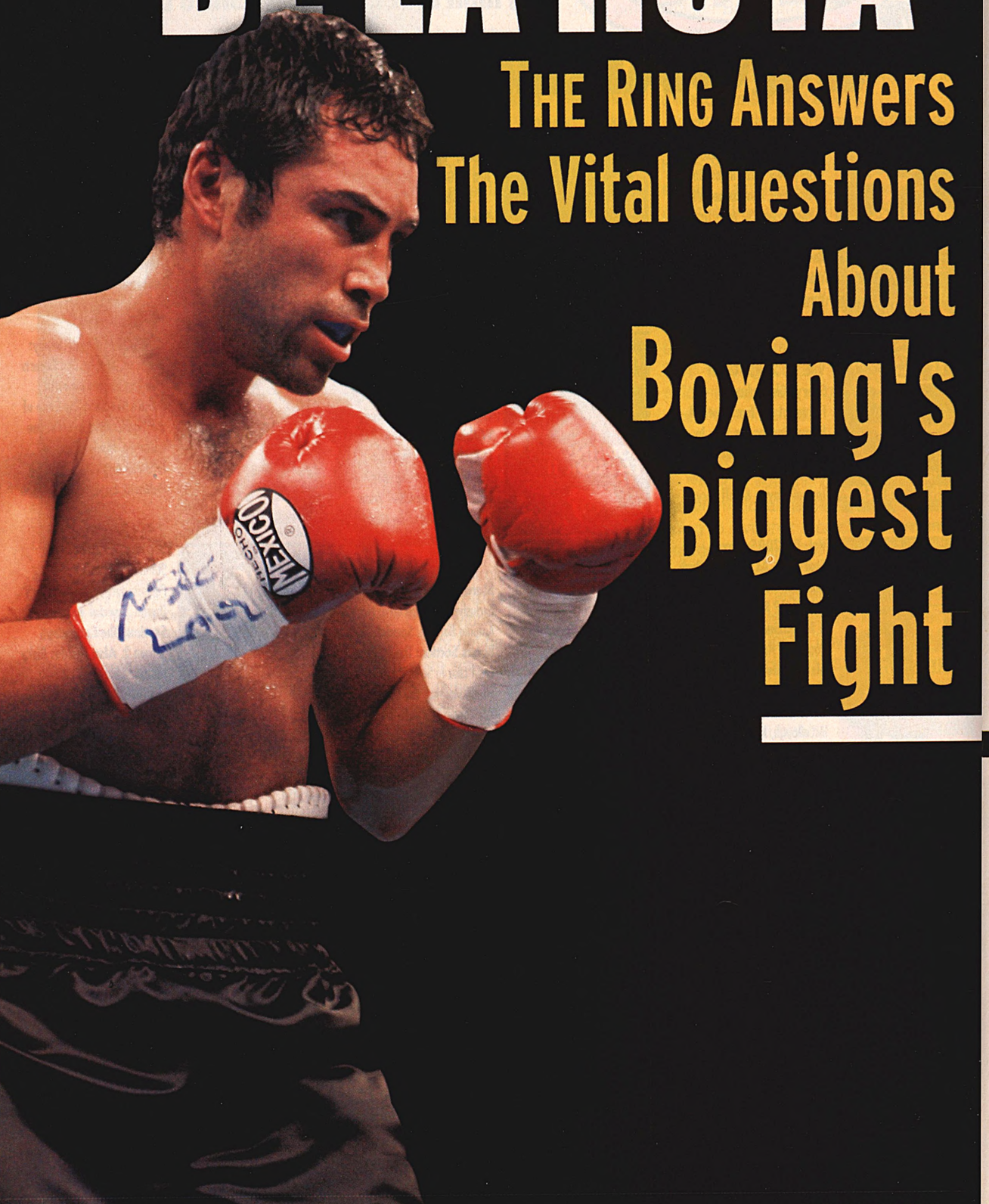
CITY_____STATE____ZIP_____

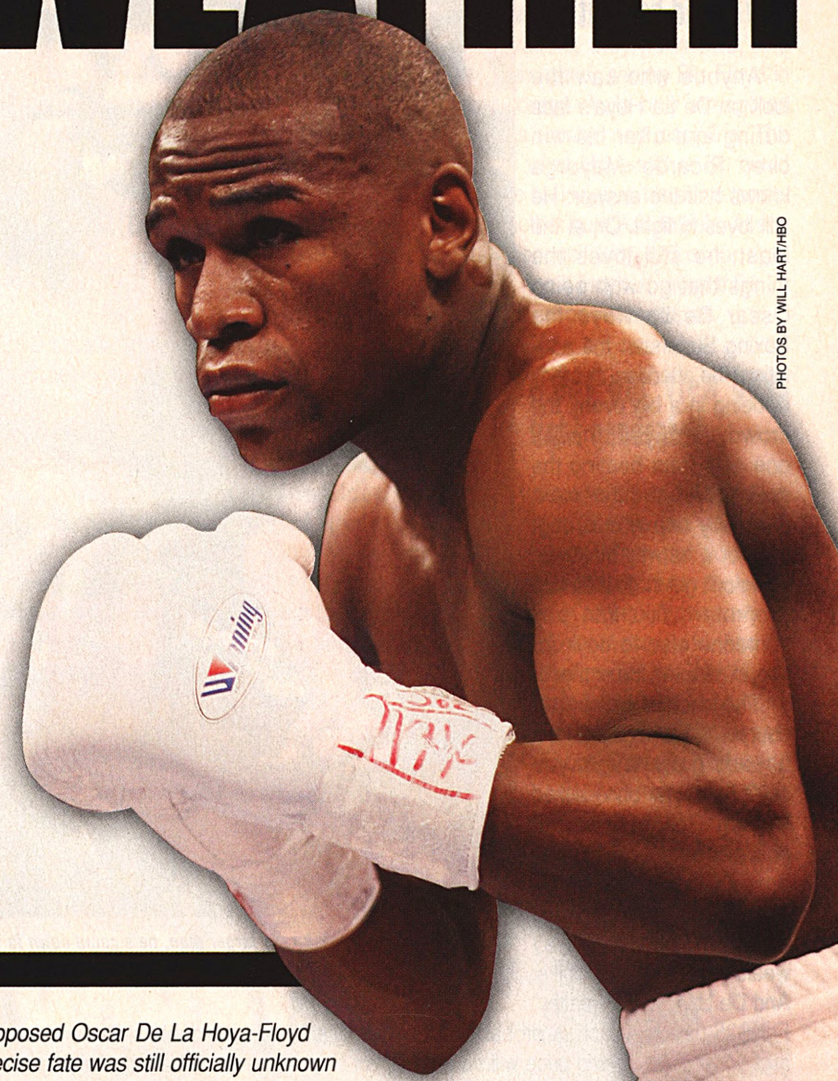
PRICES APPLY IN THE U.S. ONLY. ALL OTHER COUNTRIES PLEASE ADD $1.50 PER MAGAZINE FOR SURFACE MAIL AND $3 FOR EVERY ISSUE SENT AIRMAIL. INTERNATIONAL MONEY ORDERS IN U.S. FUNDS ONLY. PLEASE ALLOW 6-8 WEEKS FOR DELIVERY.

7510/6.06

DE LA HOYA-MAYWEATHER

The Ring Answers The Vital Questions About Boxing's Biggest Fight





PHOTOS BY WILL HART/HBO

By William Dettloff

In a year full of big fights, it was the proposed Oscar De La Hoya-Floyd Mayweather meeting, a fight whose precise fate was still officially unknown as we went to press, that most got the juices going in fight circles. There can never be enough superfights in this business, and this one, proposed for September 16 in Las Vegas, clearly qualifies.

There was a time when this fight looked like an impossibility owing to any number of factors, but one by one they crumbled in the face of the enormous potential it has to make many people very wealthy. Or, to be more accurate, wealthier. And sure, there are some things that are starkly distasteful about that—it's not making us any wealthier would top the list, we guess—but who are we to quibble? A superfight is a superfight, and if all it takes to make it happen is the likelihood that a million or two like-minded people will fork down half a week's pay to watch it on television, that's good enough for us.

This is a very big fight, folks, and as is the case with any very big fight, it is teeming with questions. Most of them involve De La Hoya, of course. Conversations about De La Hoya fights ceased involving the guy in the other corner back in the early-'90s, when "The Golden Boy" started laying golden eggs all over West Coast rings. But there are so many others around Mayweather—around his state of mind, around his father, around the weight—that asking and answering the questions is almost as much fun as watching the fight promises to be. On the following pages, we have some fun.

De La Hoya doesn't need the money and his legacy is secure; why would he do it?

Anyone who saw the look on De La Hoya's face during and after his win over Ricardo Mayorga knows half the answer: He still loves to fight. Or, at the least, he still loves the things that go with being Oscar De La Hoya the Boxing Superstar: the adulation, the attention, the thrill of being in a big event, the crowd. And, yes, the joy one gets from beating the snot out of another man, especially one who is begging for it, as was Mayorga. You don't get to do that as a promoter. You can pay someone else to do it for you, but it's not the same.

The second reason, of course, is the money. He's already got enough, you say? Someone once asked Nelson Rockefeller, the politician and gazillionaire, how much money was "enough." He replied, "a little more." That's the way wealthy people think, folks. And De La Hoya is wealthy. For $25-million, which is probably right around what his asking price will be for a Mayweather fight, watch how fast he rescinds all that talk about retiring. For $30-million, he'll fight Mayweather tomorrow night. Throw in another 10 and he'll fight all the Mayweathers at the same time. Blindfolded. In Michigan. Everybody's got a price.

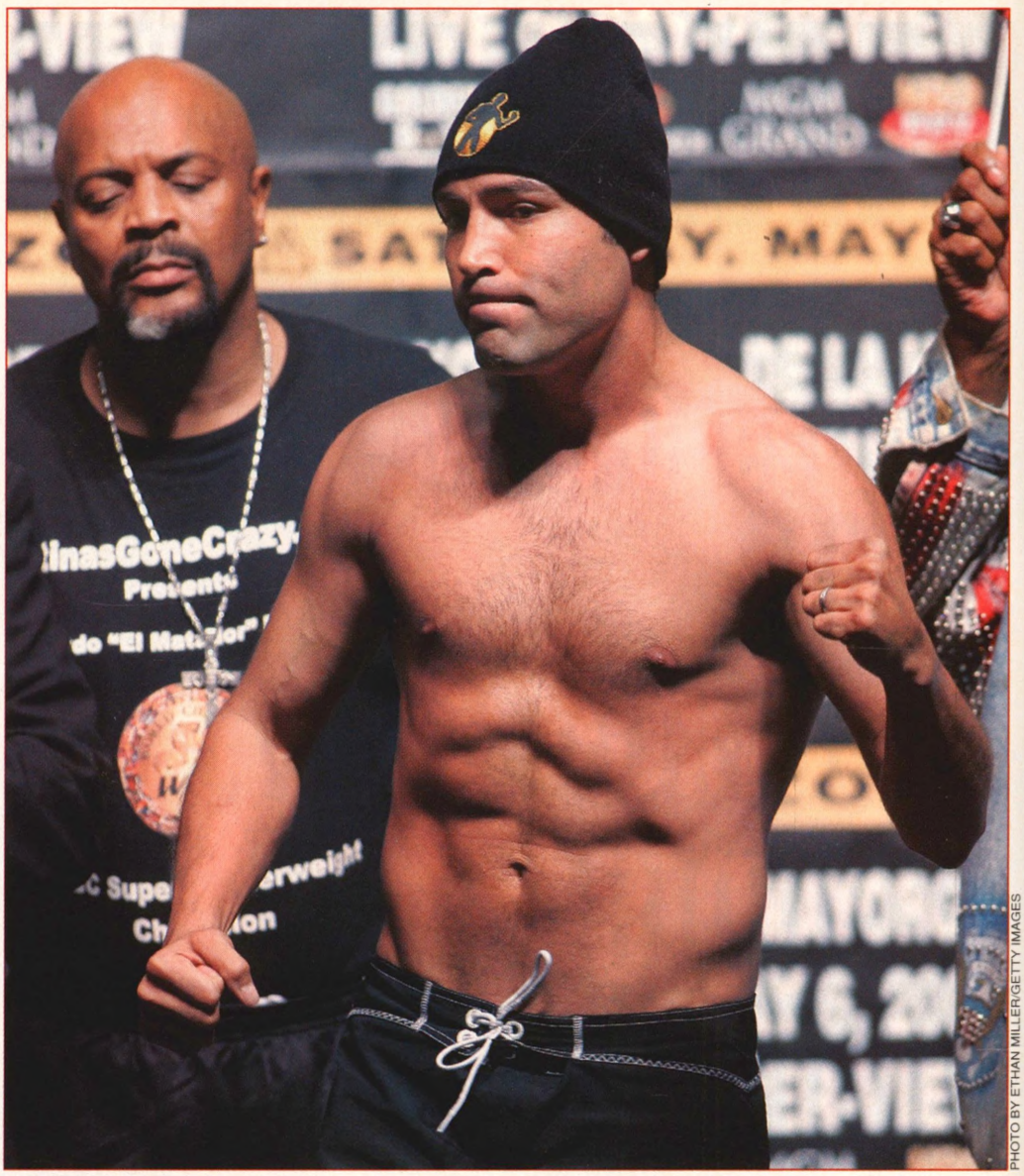


PHOTO BY ETHAN MILLER/GETTY IMAGES

While De La Hoya is a naturally larger man, he's come down in weight in recent fights, while Mayweather has been going up. Therefore, it's highly doubtful the match will be scuttled by a weight problem. A catchweight of around 150 pounds is most likely.

Is De La Hoya as good as he looked against Mayorga, or was Mayorga just that bad?

Mayorga's chin-first style and crudity were made for De La Hoya's quick left hook and still-formidable skills. And let's not forget that Mayorga was fighting out of his best weight class. His shining moments came at welterweight against Vernon Forrest, and even if he can still punch a little at junior middle, he just doesn't carry the same clout in his punches, or, it should be noted, the same ferocity in his attack. The Mayorga that De La Hoya whipped isn't the same one who ran roughshod over Forrest.

Still, De La Hoya can fight. We'd forgotten because he hadn't had a real good win since beating the stuffing out of Yory Boy Campas in May 2003. He dropped the decision to Shane Mosley, labored to barely outpoint Felix Sturm, then caved in when Bernard Hopkins gave him a love tap on the short rib. In each of those fights, he was good in spots and got solid work done, but not enough to leave us with a positive lasting impression. Against Mayorga, he finally got a guy who would let him shine. Is he as good as he looked that night? No. But he's better than we thought and can still perform at a world-class level.

How would the weight disparity play out?

It's funny, when this fight was first proffered by Mayweather well over a year ago, the main reason it seemed so

improbable was the weight difference; Mayweather was a junior welterweight already seemingly fighting above his best weight, while De La Hoya's last fight was at 160. Now look at them—one weight class apart. Mayweather's a welterweight, De La Hoya a junior middle. Amazing what the right amount of money can do. But it seems right when you consider both turned pro at 135, and both won their first alphabet titles one division to the south, at junior lightweight.

If it happens, this fight will be signed at a catchweight—probably 150 pounds. After the debacle against Hopkins, De La Hoya said he could and would get down to welterweight for the right fight, but why give Mayweather that advantage? De La Hoya is the naturally bigger guy and will exploit the difference to the greatest degree that he can. The weight won't matter to Mayweather; although he certainly looked strong enough against Arturo Gatti, Sharmba Mitchell, and Zab Judah, he's smart enough to know De La Hoya will have the edge in power and, that if he is to win, it will be by outboxing De La Hoya, not outmuscling him. Either way, the size difference is not as great as you think.

What would Floyd Sr. do?

Early on, in the immediate afterglow of De La Hoya's win over Mayorga, the primary impediment to the fight getting made appeared to be Floyd Sr.'s reluctance to train a man to give his son a concussion. "I don't give a damn what he wants," he said. "I'm the daddy and, in this particular situation, I'm calling the shots." (At least he didn't call himself "the decider.") "Everybody wants to see this fight, but nobody's got to lay down with this burden. What kind of daddy would I be to train somebody to knock out my son? It's a no-win situation."

At the same time, De La Hoya said he wouldn't fight unless Mayweather Sr. was in his corner. Seemed like a dead deal, right? Well, just before we went to press, Floyd Sr. announced that he'd changed his mind and would indeed train De La Hoya to give Floyd Jr. a concussion, owing to a chance and unpleasant meeting he had with his son in early-June. "I don't like to say it, but my son's a monster," Floyd Sr. said afterward. He even stole the old Eddie Futch line. "I taught Floyd everything he knows, but I didn't teach him everything *I* know," he told David Mayo of *The Grand Rapids Press*. And, oh yes, he wants $2-million to do it. See? Everyone's got a price.

How would Floyd Jr. react to seeing his father in the other corner? Would it help or hurt him?

So many fighters have contentious or competitive relationships with their fathers—including De La Hoya, by the way—that it's almost the norm. Clearly the relationship between Floyd Jr. and Sr. is worse than most. The elder Mayweather revealed a little of what's really behind it when he said in June that he believes Little Floyd's true motivation in pursuing this fight is not to beat De La Hoya per se, but to "be able to say he beat his daddy." Interesting.

Fighters succumb to all kinds of pressures and other emotional factors in fights. It's possible that Mayweather Jr., who can be emotional, could experience a meltdown looking into De La Hoya's corner and seeing his father giving counsel to the enemy. Maybe he freaks out and decides to stand and punch. Our guess is that the opposite would happen. That for reasons only he knows, and none of them good, seeing Big Floyd in the other corner would only strengthen Little Floyd's resolve and discipline. The question of what Mayweather Sr. could impart to De La Hoya as his son's former trainer is another question entirely. At any rate, their reconciliation will occur right there in the ring if Floyd Jr. wins. If De La Hoya wins, it will be years, if ever.

How many pay-per-view buys would the fight generate?

We don't have to tell you why this is such a big fight (but we will anyway). Here's one reason: Simply put, you have the most famous prizefighter in the world facing one who is regarded generally as the best prizefighter in the world. And it's not like the most famous one can't fight. He can. This isn't a 38-year-old Muhammad Ali. So just from a hardcore perspective, it's a good fight. An interesting

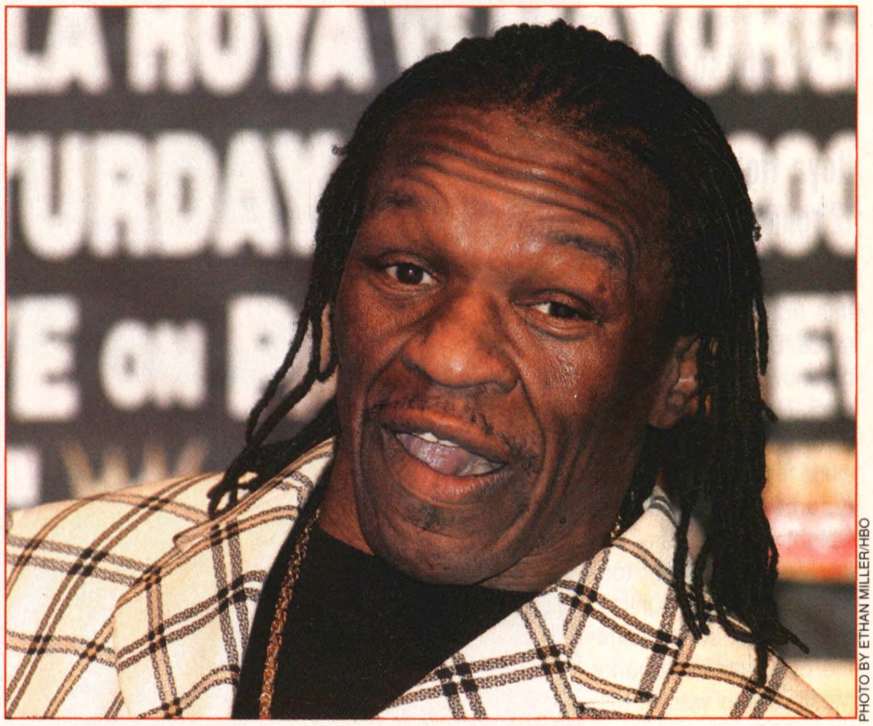


PHOTO BY ETHAN MILLER/HBO

One of the central characters in the soap opera that surrounds a match between De La Hoya and Mayweather is Oscar's trainer, Big Floyd, the father of "Pretty Boy." After originally saying he would not train De La Hoya to fight his son, Floyd Sr. has changed his mind.

one. That mix alone is good enough for 500,000 pay-per-view buys. But there's more. This one has so many angles and potential plot twists, you'd think it was a M. Knight Shyamalan movie.

You have the estranged father/son thing going on with the Mayweathers. You have brother-on-brother hate between Floyd Sr., and Roger, who don't speak to one another. You have betrayal, with Big Floyd working De La Hoya's corner. (You can bring in De La Hoya's own tormented relationship with his father if you want.) You have Mayweather's recently honed and charming postfight interview image juxtaposed against the champagne bottle-wielding thug who can't stay out of trouble or nightclubs. You have the possibility of it being De La Hoya's final fight. You have the De La Hoya vs. Arum angle. There's a lot to play up here, folks. De La Hoya-Hopkins did a million buys. This could do twice that. Easy.

If it doesn't end early, can De La Hoya fight hard for 12 rounds?

You have to figure this fight goes the distance. Despite the power he showed against Mayorga, De La Hoya hasn't been a real puncher since his days as a twentysomething welterweight. You can say it's because he's spent too much recent time fighting bigger guys, but it wasn't the case against Shane Mosley, who was at his best at 135. The chances of him stopping Mayweather probably are remote. A knockout by Mayweather is just as unlikely; he's not a big puncher either, especially at 147, and besides that, De La Hoya's always shown a good chin. This means there will be late-round action, maybe critical late-round action, and the late rounds have not been good to De La Hoya.

You can throw out the last four rounds against Felix Trinidad. De La Hoya's late-round fades against Mosley were precipitous and costly. He faded down the stretch against Felix Sturm, too, and there's good reason to believe he will against Mayweather, who, by the way, often gets stronger as a fight progresses.

How do their styles match up?

This is an interesting question because of each fighter's ties to trainer Mayweather Sr., who, on most days, strives to give the impression he "invented" the style whose defensive foundation

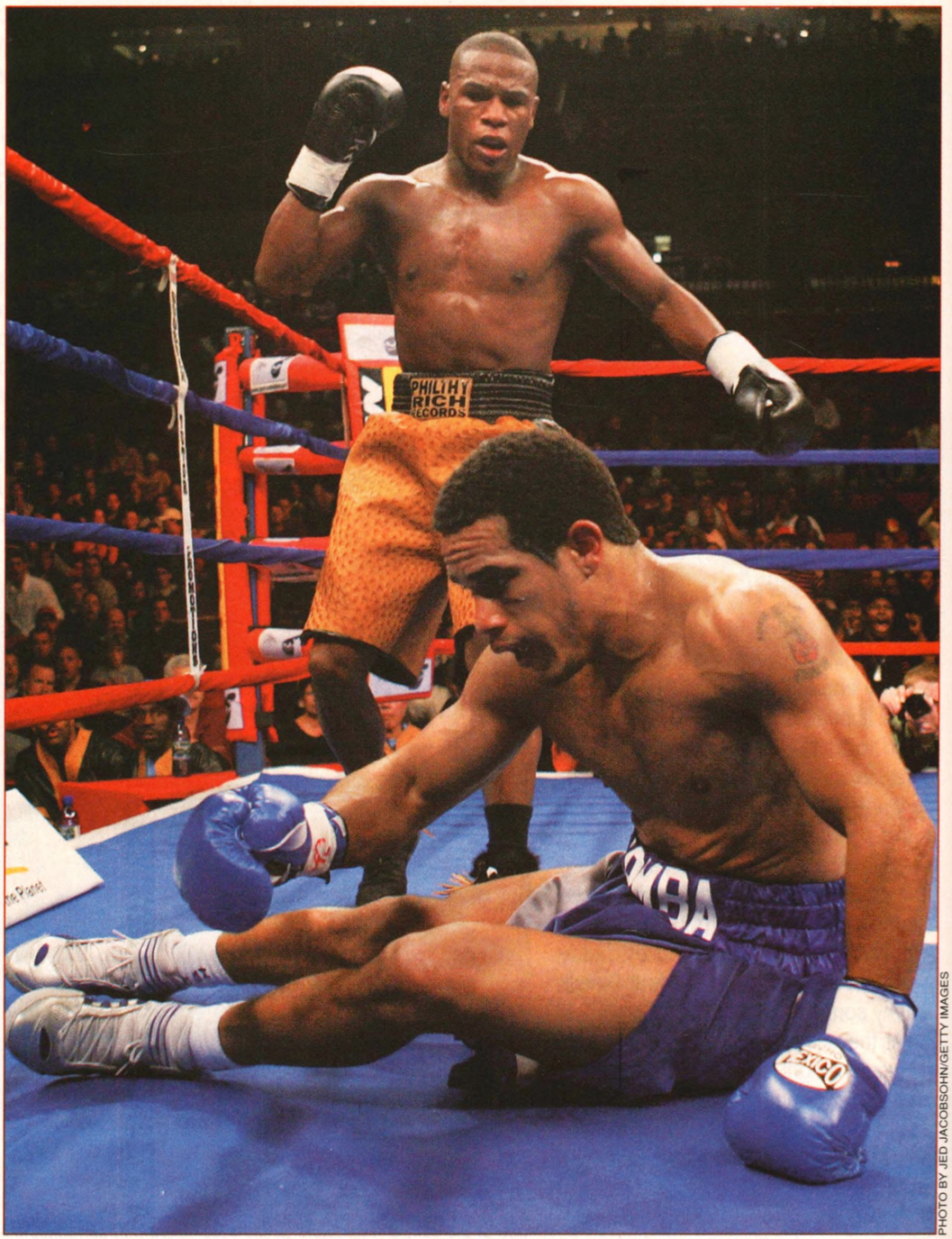


PHOTO BY JED JACOBSOHN/GETTY IMAGES

Even though Mayweather bombed out Sharmba Mitchell in November 2005, it's unlikely a De La Hoya-Mayweather bout would end in a knockout. But if there is a kayo conclusion, it will probably be the harder-hitting "Golden Boy" who prevails.

PHOTO BY DONALD MIRALLE/GETTY IMAGES

Win, lose, or draw, the Mayweather bout will probably be De La Hoya's farewell fight, and when Oscar hangs up his gloves for good, boxing will lose its biggest attraction.

the fighters share. You can see his influence strongly in each, but they are different fighters with their own weaknesses particular to their respective styles. The personification of De La Hoya's Achilles heel is Mosley, whose combination of exceptional hand speed, physical strength, and endurance beat him twice. Too fast for De La Hoya to outbox, too strong for him to outpunch, and too well-conditioned to outlast. Mayweather has two of these three characteristics.

Mayweather, like similar boxers, is troubled most by high-volume pressure fighters. See his two fights with Jose Luis Castillo for evidence. Even Jesus Chavez gave him a couple of anxious moments. It's why Ricky Hatton and Antonio Margarito are often said to have a better chance than most at beating him. Pressure and volume is how you beat boxers. De La Hoya is not now, nor has he ever been, a high-volume pressure fighter. It doesn't mean he couldn't beat him. It means his style, however one defines it, isn't the style that's most frequently successful against Mayweather's style.

Will it happen?

As we approached press time, De La Hoya seemed close to making a decision. It is, and always has been, about him. It's his choice. Once he became the cash cow of boxing, he became the boss. Opponents came to him, not the other way around. It's clear here, too, that Mayweather has been pushing for the fight and it's up to De La Hoya to accept or decline. Mayweather even took the shrewd step of buying out his contract from Bob Arum because he took seriously De La Hoya's statement that he'd never fight again in an event in which Arum had a stake. Smart move.

Things happen quickly in this business and, by the time you read this, De La Hoya almost certainly will have decided one way or another. The bet here is that it will be signed by the time this issue hits the stands. That talk about not being sure is a negotiating ploy. There's too much money to be made by everyone for De La Hoya to walk away from it, and, now that there's been so much talk and the barriers have been removed, there are no reasons, other than those involving self-preservation, for De La Hoya to walk away; it would appear unmanly. It will happen.

Who will win?

This is a competitive fight and an interesting one in terms of style, but it's not an altogether difficult one to pick: Mayweather by decision. He's faster than De La Hoya, and about as fast as Mosley, a fighter De La Hoya couldn't get past. He's younger and fresher than De La Hoya. He's hungrier. He's more skilled. If it were taking place five or six years ago, maybe De La Hoya would be a little faster than he is now, a little sharper. Maybe he would get the call, but probably not. Mayweather has about every advantage going into the fight that one could want, except for two: He's smaller and the guy who molded him is in the other guy's corner. The former will prove to be irrelevant. The latter will keep it close. ■

Back Issues of

Add to your RING collection by ordering from our limited supply of back issues. Single issues are $5 each. Order by the year and save up to 30%. Listed prices include postage and handling. Supplies are limited. To assure fulfillment order today.

Feb. 1983: Michael Dokes: Tainted Champion? Plus: Howard Cosell, Ray Mancini, Bum of the Month Club, Chacon-Limon.

Nov. 1983: Gerrie Coetzee: The New Heavyweight Champ Sets His Sights On Holmes. Plus: Alexis Arguello, Murray Sutherland, James J. Braddock, Muhammad Ali.

Feb. 1984: Don King Talks And Talks And Talks. Plus: Leonard's return, Eddie Mustafa Muhammad, 1983 quotes, Marvin Hagler, Johnny Bratton, Gerald Hayes, Hagler-Duran color.

July 1984: Bazooka's Aim Is True: Gomez Shoots Down LaPorte In The Battle For San Juan. Plus: Michael Spinks, Vinny Pazienza, Tyrone Crawley, Leonard's comeback, Chandler-Sandoval, Hagler-Roldan.

Oct. 1984: The Beast From The East: John Mugabi Strikes Terror Into The Hearts Of Men. Plus: Olympics, Bill Costello, Davey Moore, Wilfred Benitez, King's heavyweights.

Jan. 1985: Holmes-Bonecrusher Color Action. Plus: Gerry Cooney, pro debuts (Breland, Hill, Taylor, Biggs, Whitaker, Holyfield), Santos-Medal, Meza-Garza.

Feb. 1985: Showdown: Page Clobbers Coetzee For WBA Title. Plus: Larry Holmes, lightweights, Cooney-Chaplin, McCallum-Minchillo.

March 1985: Thomas Hearns—Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Annual ratings, Fight, Upset, Round, Comeback, and Prospect of the Year.

May 1985: The Rematch In Reno: Bramble-Mancini Color Action. Plus: Donald Curry, Aaron Pryor, McGuigan-LaPorte.

June 1985: Holmes' Last Hurrah? Holmes-Bey Color Action. Plus: Holmes vs. all-time greats, Paul-Arroyo, 1901.

Aug. 1985: Seven Elected To The Ring Hall Of Fame (Jose Napoles, Jake LaMotta, Panama Al Brown, Manuel Ortiz, Young Stribling, Thomas Jackling, Lord Lonsdale). Plus: Spinks-Holmes preview, Barry McGuigan.

Oct. 1985: The "Macho Man" Rides Again. Plus: Jeff Fenech, Berbick-Green, John E. Garcia, Dwight Muhammad Qawi, McCallum-Braxton.

Nov. 1985: Will Hagler Feast On The Beast? Plus: Hagler-Mugabi & Hearns-Shuler previews, Lonnie Smith, Pintor-Meza, Chuck Hull, Benitez-Moley.

Dec. 1985: Michael Spinks: Against All Odds. Plus: Curry-McCrory preview, McGuigan-Taylor, Alexis Arguello, Michael Olajide, Chavez-Pratchett.

Jan. 1986: In Search Of A Heavyweight Champion. Plus: Azumah Nelson, Arguello-Jefferson, Olympic update, Chicago boxing.

May 1986: Hagler vs. Mugabi: Marvelous Marvin Tames The Beast. Plus: Marvin Johnson, McGuigan-Cabrera, Bramble-Crawley, Tyson-Ferguson, 10 worst decisions.

June 1986: Barry's Back In The USA: McGuigan Breathes A Breath Of Fresh Air Into American Fight Scene. Plus: Bobby Czyz, Robbie Sims, Qawi-Holyfield preview, Berbick-Thomas, Bruno-Coetzee.

Aug. 1986: Is Sugar Ray Still Sweet? Plus: Lloyd Honeyghan, Tyson-Green, Cooney-Gregg, Hall of Fame (Eder Jofre, Benny Lynch, Bud Taylor, Sam McVey, Nat Langham, John Chambers), Bernardo Pinango.

Sept. 1986: Gerry Cooney vs. Mike Tyson: Who Would Win? Plus: Cruz-McGuigan, Hearns-Medal, Tyson-Gross, Sims-Duran.

Dec. 1986: The Weekend That Shook The Boxing World. Rosario-Bramble & Honeyghan-Curry. Plus: Butch Lewis interview, Buster Drayton, Hector Camacho, Jake LaMotta.

June 1987: Vinny Paz: Phenom Or Phony? Plus: Tyson-Bonecrusher, Mark Breland, Brian Mitchell, Evander Holyfield, Czyz-Edwards, Olajide-Lee, Curry-Montgomery.

July 1987: Spinks-Cooney: The Fight That Refused To Die. Plus: The new Ring ratings, Terry Marsh, George Foreman's return, Khaosai Galaxy, Hearns-Andries, Whitaker-Mayweather.

Sept. 1987: Michael Olajide: The Look Of The Future? Plus: Tyson-Thomas, Jeff Fenech, middleweight muddle, Tsuyoshi Hamada, Juan Roldan, Harold Knight.

Nov. 1987: Tyson Wins Heavyweight Triple Crown. Plus: McCallum-Curry, Carlos Monzon interview, triple champions, Orlin & Terry Norris, Ramirez-Alli, Fenech-Richardson, Matthew Hilton.

Dec. 1987: Spinks & Lewis: Boxing's Beastie Boys. Plus: Starling-Breland, Ramzi Hassan, Honeyghan-Hatcher, Holyfield-Ocasio.

Jan. 1988: Darrin Van Horn—Million Dollar Baby? Plus: Evander Holyfield, Hill-Stewart, Juan Coggi, great hookers, AIDS.

Feb. 1988: Gold Outshines Glitter: Tate Tops Olajide. Plus: Tyson-Biggs, Kalambay-Barkley, Hearns-Roldan, fights we'd like to see.

March 1988: Thomas "Hit Man" Hearns: "Now I Own History." Plus: Lockridge & Mayweather, Tony Burton, Julio Cesar Chavez, blood.

April 1988: Evander Holyfield: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Special year-end awards, Holyfield-Qawi II, Foreman-Sekorski, Hill-Angulo.

May 1988: George Foreman: "I Can Beat Tyson." Plus: Tyson-Holmes, Jesse Benavides, Showtime, no-knockout artists.

Sept. 1988: Sugar Ray: Here He Comes Again! Plus: Andries-Czyz, Kid Chocolate, Don Dunphy, Don Lalonde.

Oct. 1988: Mike Tyson: What Price Glory? Plus: Tyson-Spinks, Hearns-Barkley, Davey Moore.

Nov. 1988: Donny Lalonde: "Sugar Ray is Out Of His Mind!" Plus: Hall of Fame selections (Carlos Ortiz, Joe Brown, Billy Graham, Cus D'Amato, Jimmy Jacobs), Nunn-Tate, Molinares-Starling, Honeyghan-Chung, '88 Olympians.

Jan. 1989: Meldrick Taylor: Philly Phenom. Plus: Marvin Hagler, Alex Wallau, Taylor-McGirt, Olympic results.

Feb. 1989: Julio Cesar Chavez. Plus: Chavez-Ramirez, all-time lightweight ratings, Louie Espinoza, Simon Brown, Roger Mayweather.

March 1989: Hearns Next For Sugar Ray? Plus: Leonard-Lalonde, Prince Charles Williams, Hearns-Kinchen, Nunn-Roldan, Hines-Hilton.

May 1989: The Best Of '88. Plus: Year-end awards, Evander Holyfield, Pryor-Morales, Fenech-Navarro.

Feb. 1990: Mike Tyson: Riddick Bowe & Ray Mercer Take Aim. Plus: Bobby Czyz, Gerry Cooney, Chuck Wepner, Antonio Esparragoza, Roman-Laciar.

March 1990: The '80s—Great Fights, Great Fighters (color). Plus: Jeff Harding, Evander Holyfield, Pete Rademacher, Sharkey-McCoy.

April 1990: Pernell Whitaker: Fighter Of The Year (color). Plus: Tiger Flowers, Duran-Leonard, Chavez-Taylor preview, Jorge Paez, Ali-Cooper.

May 1990: Big George Talks Tough: "Tyson Won't Be That Difficult!" Plus: Ed Hopson, Russian fighters, grudge wars, Archie Moore, Kid Berg, Marcel Cerdan, Chavez-Cortes.

June 1990: Buster! How James Douglas Shocked The World. Plus: Michael Moorer, Camacho-Paez, Tommy Farr, excuses, Dick Tiger, Ruben Olivares-Jeff Chandler.

July 1990: "I'm Hungrier Than Ever Before," By Evander Holyfield. Plus: James Toney, Buddy McGirt, Glenwood Brown, Aaron Davis, Michael Carbajal, Jorge Paez, Kid Gavilan, Mark Breland, Ali-Liston II (color).

Sept. 1990: Marvin Hagler—Can He Resist The Irresistible Temptation? Plus: Thomas Hearns, Sanchez-Saddler, Paul Banke, puncher vs. chin, Beau Jack, Robinson-LaMotta (color).

Nov. 1990: Tyson vs. Foreman. Can Iron Mike Stop The Blast From The Past? Plus: Bruce Seldon, best chins, Sullivan-Kilrain (color), Azumah Nelson, LaStarza.

Dec. 1990: Exclusive Annual Report: The State Of The Game. Plus: Douglas-Holyfield preview, Julio Cesar Chavez, Joe Grim, Whitaker-Nazario, Rosi-Van Horn, Benny Leonard, Douglas-Tyson (color).

Feb. 1991: Boxing On TV—Now You'll Pay! Plus: Ismael Laguna, Tommy Morrison in *Rocky V*, Reggie Tuur, Chiquita Gonzalez, Harold Green, Joe Louis.

April 1991: Julio Cesar Chavez—Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Tyson-Stewart, James Leija, Wilfred Benitez, Pedro Decima, Moore-Bassey.

June 1991: Pain, Frustration, Confidence, And Hope: Meldrick Taylor's Life After Chavez. Plus: Foreman-Holyfield preview, Norris-Leonard, David Kamau, Freddie Steele, Bennie Briscoe, Leonard's career (color).

July 1991: Tyson's Title Hopes: He Ain't What He Used To Be ... But It's Not Gonna Matter. Plus: Eusebio Pedroza, Myung Woo Yuh, Willie Meehan, Hearns-Hill preview, computer junior welterweight tournament, Gomez-Fenech, controversial heavyweight finishes (color).

Aug. 1991: Foreman Gives Holyfield A Fight ... And The World A Thrill (color). Plus: Making weight, Harry Greb, Kevin Kelley, Louis-Conn I, Simon Brown-Blocker, Chavez-Duplessis, Sugar Ray Robinson.

July 1992: Does Larry Holmes Deserve A Title Shot? Plus: Nelson-Fenech II, Tracy Patterson, Kelley-Dorsey, fat fighters, Buchanan-Camacho, Holmes-Ali (color).

Aug. 1992: Holyfield-Holmes Prefight. Holmes: "I See Me Takin' Holyfield Outta There." Plus: Iran Barkley, Herbie Hide, George Foreman, Tex Cobb, Carnival of Champions, Harry Greb, Haugen-Mancini, Oscar De La Hoya, Gene Tunney (color).

Sept. 1992: Chavez: Unbeaten At 80-0, But What If He Had To Face These Guys? Plus: Bobby Czyz, Genaro Hernandez, Norris-Taylor, Tommy Gibbons, Sugar Ray Leonard's career, Sugar Ray Robinson (color).

Nov. 1992: Is Riddick Bowe The Next Heavyweight Champion? Plus: Morrison-Hipp, Canizales-Chandler, Chavez-Camacho preview, Australia Best of Nation, Tyson speaks from prison, Corbett-Sullivan (color), Tracy Patterson, Pat Barrett, Knockout Brown.

Feb. 1993: America's Tribute To The Brown Bomber: Joe Louis. Plus: Virgil Hill, Junior Jones, Roger Mayweather, Chicago boxing, Orlando Zulueta, Jose Napoles (color).

April 1993: Riddick Bowe—Fighter Of The Year. Plus: "Grand Slam" fight card, Toney-Barkley preview, Morris East, Joe Louis-John Henry Lewis, All-Time Top 10: Argentina, Fighters of the Year (color).

May 1993: Oscar De La Hoya's Sprint To The Title: Is He Good Enough *Now?* Plus: Carbajal-Gonzalez preview, Lennox Lewis, The Ring Poll, Freddie Pendleton.

Aug. 1994: Bowe's Back! Determined To Do It Again. Plus: Eric Griffin, Pernell Whitaker, Ray Mercer, Roger Donoghue, State of the Game (midterm report), All-Time Top 10: The Philippines.

Dec. 1994: Fighting-Mad! James Toney Just Wants To Beat People Up. Plus: Duran & Robinson, Don King, Mike McCallum, injuries (part II), Tom Molineaux.

May 1995: The State Of The Game. Plus: Olzubek & Arbachakov, Gonzalez-Kelley, Pazienza-Duran II, All-Time Top 10: France.

Jan. 1996: King Bruno! A Hero Always ... A Winner At Last. Plus: Julio Cesar Chavez, Oscar De La Hoya, Chris Eubank, Eddie Perkins, who's hot/who's not.

Feb. 1996: Bowe's The Man (For Now), But Is He Man Enough For Tyson? Plus: Lennox Lewis, Hamed-Barrera, Paul Banke, Vince Phillips, boxing on Madison Ave., What If ... Leonard-Pryor.

Nov. 1996: Pole-Axed! Low Blows, Sinking Bowe, Ugly Show. Plus: Bowe-Golota I, Blinky Palermo, exciting fighters, Winky Wright, Joe Brown.

June 1997 (Special Collector's Issue): Holyfield-Tyson II: What It Means For Now ... And Forever. Plus: Holyfield-Tyson fight poster, Naseem Hamed, computer unification, Sayers-Heenan, state of the game.

Nov. 1997: Is Mike Tyson Finished? Plus: Ike Ibeabuchi, De La Hoya-Camacho preview, Frankie Conley, Hall of Fame, gloves,

Feb. 1998: Welter-Skelter! The Hottest Division In Boxing. Plus: Lewis-Golota, Olympic update, Art Shires, boxing I.Q.

April 1998: Evander Holyfield: The Ring's Fighter Of The Year (Again!). Plus: Yory Boy Campas, Mullings-Norris, Pinkey Mitchell, Holyfield Q & A, Hamed-Kelley, Oscar De La Hoya.

July 1998: Holyfield ... Tapia ... Hamed ... Jones ... Trinidad ... De La Hoya: Who Will Be The First To Fall? Plus: Magic Johnson, Chavez-Gonzalez & Lopez-Alvarez, underappreciated boxers.

Aug. 1998: Lennox Lewis: No Holyfield, No Glory. Plus: Felix Trinidad, Pat & Mike McMurtry, Chris Byrd, unbreakable records, contenders & pretenders.

Sept. 1998 (92-Page Special): This Man's Not Unbeatable! Five Top Trainers Reveal How To Solve The Hamed Puzzle. Plus: John Tate, Freddie Norwood, Andrew Golota, Roy Jones, 12 greatest finishes.

Oct. 1998: Really Hard Punch ... Really Soft Lips: Oscar Makes Legs Quiver In And Out Of The Ring. Plus: Hector Camacho Jr., Mayweather-Hernandez preview, *Tuesday Night Fights.*

Jan. 1999: Sugar Shane Mosley: The Sweet Tradition Continues. Plus: Evander Holyfield, Julio Cesar Chavez, Erik Morales, Ray "Windmill" White.

Feb. 1999: 1999! It's Gonna Be A Great Year For Boxing. Plus: Mike Tyson, Foreman-Holmes, David Reid, Eric Morel, Richie Mitchell, quitters.

March 1999: De La Hoya vs. Quartey: Does Bazooka Have The Weapons To Shoot Down Oscar? Plus: Sugar Shane Mosley, Lopez-Alvarez II, Roy Jones, Coley Wallace.

May 1999: Is It All Over For Tyson? Plus: Terry Norris, Vinny Pazienza, Jesus Pimental, stoppages, mandatories.

June 1999: The Fans Have Spoken: Results Of

THE RING Readers' Poll. Plus: Michael Grant, De La Hoya-Quartey, Antwun Echols, Ted Lowry.

July 1999 (92-Page Special): The State Of The Game. Plus: Holyfield-Lewis, Felix Trinidad, Stevie Johnston, Emile Griffith, Phil Zwick.

Aug. 1999: Candidates For Greatness: Can Anyone Fill The Heavyweight Void? Plus: Tim Austin, Naseem Hamed, Oscar De La Hoya, Max Schmeling, Holyfield-Lewis.

Sept. 1999: Taking Stock In The Fight Game: Who's Hot, Who's Not. Plus: Tony Ayala, Keith Holmes, Denny & Phil Moyer, scoring.

Dec. 1999: Insiders' Analysis: Can Roy Jones Chop Down The Best Heavyweights? Plus: Ike Ibeabuchi, David Reid, David Tua, Carmen Basilio, Johnny Summerlin.

Holiday 1999 (92-Page Special): Heavyweight Showdowns! Holyfield vs. Lewis II, Grant vs. Golota. Plus: Francois Botha, Arturo Gatti, Michael Carbajal, Rocky Marciano, Lou Filippo.

Jan. 2000: What Does Trinidad's Victory Over Oscar Mean? Plus: Floyd Mayweather, Paul Spadafora, Ralph Dupas, boxing media.

March 2000: Lennox Lewis: The Champ For The Millennium ... Or Just For The Moment? Plus: Oleg Maskaev, Main Events, Derrick Jefferson, Jerry Buss, IBF scandal.

May 2000: Lennox Lewis Will Quit ... Or Get Knocked Out, By Michael Grant. Plus: Roy Jones, Quartey-Vargas preview, Garth Panter, best chins, boxing movies.

June 2000: The Honors Keep Coming! Lenox Lewis Receives The Undisputed RING Belt. Plus: Roy Jones, Vernon Forrest, Teddy Atlas, Mike Tyson, Don Fullmer.

July 2000 (92-Page Special): The State Of The Game. Plus: Felix Trinidad, Zab Judah, Oscar De La Hoya, Barrera-Morales, Ken Buchanan, Beau Jack, Eric Bottjer.

Aug. 2000: Hamed! And The Men Who Want To Kick His Naz! Plus: David Reid, James Prince, Anthony Fletcher, Micky Ward, final beatings, white hopes.

Sept. 2000: A New Look At Lennox Lewis: Is He An All-Time Great? Plus: Winky Wright, Michael Moorer, De La Hoya & Vargas, Eddie McGoorty.

Oct. 2000 (92-Page Special): Move Up Or Shut Up! We're Sick Of Roy Jones' Heavyweight Tease. Plus: Lennox Lewis, Tapia & Romero, Hasim Rahman, Dwight Qawi, Al Palzer, fight films, best refs.

(ALL-COLOR BEGINNING WITH THE DECEMBER 2000 ISSUE)

Dec. 2000: The Hell With Tyson—Tua Is The Man Who Could Beat Lewis. Plus: Mike Tyson, Felix Trinidad, Wladimir Klitschko, Trilla in Manila, U.S. vs. World, Toxey Hall.

Feb. 2001: It's Not Over For Oscar: THE RING's Five-Step Recovery Plan. Plus: Bob Arum, Dingaan Thobela, Hernandez brothers, U.S. Olympic team, future pound-for-pounders.

March 2001 (108-Page Extra): Tyson! Forget About Retirement ... A Title Shot Awaits! Plus: Ayala-Tapia II, Audley Harrison, Chris Byrd, Kirk Johnson, Julio Cesar Chavez, Boone Kirkman, 12 most exciting rounds.

April 2001: A New Beginning ... A New Middle: Felix Trinidad Is Ready To Conquer Another Division! Plus: Shane Mosley, Lennox Lewis, Paul Andrews, boxing business.

May 2001 (108-Page Extra): Felix Trinidad—Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Year-end awards, Barrera-Hamed preview, Bernard Hopkins, Joey Archer.

June 2001: Pretty Boy Floyd: Superstar Or Superbrat? Plus: Lewis vs. greats, 2000 Olympians, Henry Hall, rematches we'd like to see.

July 2001 (108-Page Extra): The State Of The Game. Plus: Zab Judah, John Ruiz, Andrew Lewis, Mark Johnson, British boxing.

Aug. 2001: Rocking The World! What Rahman's Victory Means To Boxing. Plus: Barrera-Hamed, Oscar De La Hoya, Mount Whitaker, *Friday Night Fights.*

Sept. 2001 (108-Page Extra): Exclusive RING Interview—Hasim Rahman: "Nobody's Taking My Titles!" Plus: 20 all-time greatest lightweights, Pat Valentino, Hopkins & King, Jones & Arum.

Oct. 2001: Trinidad vs. Hopkins: Middleweight Unification Superfight Analysis & Predictions. Plus: Emanuel Steward, Joe Calzaghe, Ali's opponents, Rahman & King.

Dec. 2001: The Rock Promises Another Shock! "I'm Gonna Knock Lennox Out Again!" Plus: David Reid, Jones-Gonzalez, McCline-Grant, Jackie Graves, ring deaths.

Jan. 2002 (108-Page Extra): Oscar Feeds His Critics: Did He Chicken Out Against Vargas? Plus: Wladimir Klitschko, Chris Byrd, 20 greatest featherweights, "Caveman" Bob Moha.

March 2002 (108-Page Extra): Is Tyson Ready To Regain The Title? Plus: Kostya Tszyu, Floyd Mayweather, Bernard Hopkins, Eddie Futch, fitness, ahead for 2002.

May 2002 (108-Page Extra): Bernard Hopkins—Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Year-end awards, Holyfield-Ruiz III, 2000 Olympians, Eric Harding, "Silent" Hairston.

June 2002: Lennox Lewis: I'll End The Tyson "Freak Show!" Plus: Forrest-Mosley, Freitas-Casamayor, De La Hoya & Vargas, Hagler & Leonard.

Aug. 2002: Lewis vs. Tyson: Who Will Win ... And What Happens Next. Plus: Michael Moorer, Jeff Fenech, Charley Parham, Rafael & Juan Manuel Marquez.

Sept. 2002 (108-Page Extra): Vernon Forrest—Next Step In The Master Plan: End Mosley's Career. Plus: Sugar Ray Leonard, Roberto Duran, Ricardo Mayorga, 20 greatest lightweights.

Oct. 2002: Tito' Back ... And He's "Going To Make Hopkins Pay!" Plus: Ward-Gatti, Bouie Fisher, controversial scoring, ruining prospects.

Nov. 2002 (108-Page Extra): Monster Mashed! Can A New Tyson Emerge From The Rubble? Plus: THE RING 100, Evander Holyfield, Don King, Billy Joiner, junior welters.

Feb. 2003: The Resurrection Of A Warrior: Cam Evander Holyfield Recapture The Glory Of His Youth? Also: Floyd Mayweather Sr., Nate Campbell, Tom & Peter McNeeley, boxing finances, pound-for-pound.

March 2003 (108-Page Extra): Hamed ... Morales ... Tapia: Barrera Has Punched His Ticket To The Hall Of Fame. Also: Joe Mesi, Ricardo Lopez, Pipino Cuevas, alphabet tales, what's ahead for '03.

May 2003 (108-Page Extra): Ali ... Leonard ... Tyson ... Klitschko? Also: Year-end awards, Chris Byrd, Lupe Pintor, Maxie Rosenbloom.

June 2003: Exclusive! The Ring Grills George Foreman. Also: Kostya Tszyu, Ricardo Mayorga, Diego Corrales, Tommy Loughran.

July 2003 (108-Page Extra): Now What, Roy? How Jones Matches Up Against The Heavyweight Elite. Also: Mike Tyson, Marquez Brothers, Ricardo Williams, Tony Zale.

Aug. 2003: THE RING Unscrambles The Heavyweight Mess. Also: Bernard Hopkins, Scott Harrison, Billy Warren, Latino revolution, cups.

Sept. 2003 (108-Page Extra): Oscar At 30: Forget About Retirement ... He Has Revenge On His Mind. Also: Mayorga-Forrest II preview, James Toney, Barney Ross, HBO, report cards.

Oct. 2003: James Toney vs. Bernard Hopkins: The Ghost Of Superfights Past. Also: De La Hoya-Mosley II preview, Jermain Taylor, Sharmba Mitchell, biggest hearts.

Nov. 2003 (108-Page Extra): Healing And Hungry: Vitali Klitschko—Is He The Man To Retire Lewis? Also: Gatti-Ward III, Holyfield-Toney, Dominick Guinn, Lee Roy Murphy, THE RING 100.

April 2004: Antonio Tarver: "It's Not About Roy Jones Anymore." Also: Pacquiao-Barrera, Floyd Mayweather, all punch/no chin, Rinty Monaghan.

June 2004: The Lewis Retirment: Will He Come Back? Also: Scott Pemberton, Jones-Tarver preview, James McGirt, James J. Braddock.

July 2004 (100-Page Extra): The State Of The Game. Also: Erik Morales, Howard Eastman, Marco Antonio Barrera, Hank Hankinson, middleweights.

Summer 2004: Squeezed Out: Is There A Superfight For Felix Trinidad? Also: Joe Mesi, Miguel Cotto, Winky Wright, Ceferino Garcia.

Oct. 2004 (100-Page Extra): The Executioner: There's No Escape For De La Hoya! Also: Verno Phillips, Jose Luis Castillo, Felix Sturm, James Toney, Jeff Lacy, one-punch kayos

Fall 2004: Trinidad vs. Mayorga: Comeback Or Calamity. Also: Vitali Klitschko, Marco Antonio Barrera, Juan Diaz, Jimmy Clabby.

Feb. 2005 (100-Page Extra): The Incredible Comeback Of Felix Trinidad—Just The Boost Boxing Needs! Also: Glen Johnson, Klitschko-Williams preview, Kasim Ouma, Tony Lopez, Paul Berlenbach, bodypunching.

Winter 2005: 1980s vs. Today: Comparing The Middleweight Superstars. Also: Roy Jones, Leija-Gatti preview, Terry Downes, comebacks.

April 2005 (100-Page Extra): How Kostya Tszyu Mastered The Sweet Science: The Metamorphosis Of A Near-Perfect Fighter. Also: Barrera-Morales III, Winky Wright, Vivian Harris, 10 greatest title reigns, 10 burning questions.

Spring 2005—Svelter Welter: Moving To 147 Will Tip The Scale In Oscar's Favor. Also: Vitali Klitschko, Glen Johnson, Andre Ward, Johnny Persol.

June 2005 (100-Page Extra): Tito vs. Winky: Is Trinidad Facing Hopkins-Like Danger? Also: Zab Judah, Ricky Hatton, Kassim Ouma, Marcel Thil & Eugene Criqui, all-star report cards.

Summer 2005: Gatti vs. Mayweather: Will This Be The Mismatch "Pretty Boy" Predicts? Also: Erik Morales, Miguel Cotto, Mahyar Monshipour, Pinky Silverberg.

Aug. 2005 (100-Page Extra): *The Contender:* Boxing's Ticket Back To The Mainstream? Also: Jorge Acar, Hopkins vs. Jones, Riddick Bowe, Buster Douglas, The State of the Game.

Oct. 2005 (100-Page Extra): Our Man Hatton—Working-Class Warrior Becomes A World-Class Superstar. Plus: Wright-Trinidad, Corrales-Castillo, Kingsley Ikeke, great career comebacks, featherweights.

Dec. 2005 (100-Page Extra): Jermain Taylor: Can We Call Him The World's Greatest Middleweight? Plus: Corrales-Castillo II forecast, Amir Khan, Barry McGuigan, THE RING 100.

Fall 2005: Jeff "Left Hook" Lacy: Bringing Excitement Back To The Super Middles. Plus: Fernando Vargas, Rahman-Klitschko, Taylor-Hopkins, boxing pitchmen.

Feb. 2006 (100-Page Extra): Castillo-Corrales II: When The Rule-Breakers Win ... It's Time To Reevaluate The System. Plus: Antonio Tarver, Cotto-Torres, Peter-Klitschko, Marco Antonio Barrera, Zahir Raheem, Leavander Johnson, Max Baer.

April 2006 (100-Page Extra): Ricky Hatton: Britain's First Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Year-end awards, Jermain Taylor, Calzaghe-Lacy preview, Israel Vazquez, Zsolt Erdei.

June 2006 (100-Page Extra): Who Needs The Heavyweights? Plus: De La Hoya-Mayorga preview, Pacquiao-Morales, Carlos Baldomir, Castillo-Reyes, Alvin Felicilda, Jason Litzau, Turpin brothers.

☐FEB/83	☐JUN/87	☐MAY/90	☐MAY/95	☐DEC/99	☐JAN/02	☐FALL/04
☐NOV/83	☐JUL/87	☐JUN/90		☐HOL/99	☐MAR/02	☐DEC/04
	☐SEP/87	☐JUL/90	☐JAN/96	**All 10 $37**	☐MAY/02	**All 7 $28**
☐FEB/84	☐NOV/87	☐SEP/90	☐FEB/96		☐JUN/02	
☐JUL/84	☐DEC/87	☐NOV/90	☐NOV/96	☐JAN/00	☐AUG/02	☐FEB/05
☐OCT/84	**All 5 $22**	☐DEC/90	**All 3 $14**	☐MAR/00	☐SEP/02	☐WIN/05
All 3 $14		**All 9 $34**		☐MAY/00	☐OCT/02	☐APR/05
	☐JAN/88		☐JUN/97	☐JUN/00	☐NOV/02	☐SPR/05
☐JAN/85	☐FEB/88	☐APR/91	☐NOV/97	☐JUL/00	**All 8 $31**	☐JUN/05
☐FEB/85	☐MAR/88	☐JUN/91		☐AUG/00		☐SUM/05
☐MAR/85	☐APR/88	☐JUL/91	☐FEB/98	☐SEP/00	☐FEB/03	☐AUG/05
☐MAY/85	☐MAY/88	☐AUG/91	☐APR/98	☐OCT/00	☐MAR/03	☐OCT/05
☐JUN/85	☐SEP/88	**All 4 $18**	☐JUL/98	☐DEC/00	☐MAY/03	☐DEC/05
☐AUG/85	☐OCT/88		☐AUG/98	**All 9 $34**	☐JUN/03	☐FALL/05
☐OCT/85	☐NOV/88	☐JUL/92	☐SEP/98		☐JUL/03	**All 8 $37**
☐NOV/85	**All 8 $31**	☐SEP/92	☐OCT/98	☐FEB/01	☐AUG/03	
☐DEC/85		☐NOV/92	**All 6 $25**	☐MAR/01	☐SEP/03	☐FEB/06
All 9 $34	☐JAN/89	**All 3 $14**		☐APR/01	☐OCT/03	☐APR/06
	☐FEB/89		☐JAN/99	☐MAY/01	☐NOV/03	☐JUN/06
☐JAN/86	☐MAR/89	☐FEB/93	☐FEB/99	☐JUN/01	**All 9 $34**	**All 3/$14**
☐MAY/86	☐MAY/89	☐APR/93	☐MAR/99	☐JUL/01		
☐JUN/86	**All 4 $18**	☐MAY/93	☐MAY/99	☐AUG/01	☐APR/04	
☐AUG/86		**All 3 $14**	☐JUN/99	☐SEP/01	☐JUN/04	
☐SEP/86	☐FEB/90		☐JUL/99	☐OCT/01	☐JUL/04	
☐DEC/86	☐MAR/90	☐AUG/94	☐AUG/99	☐DEC/01	☐SUM/04	
All 6 $25	☐APR/90	☐DEC/94	☐SEP/99	**All 10 $37**	☐OCT/04	

In case of sellout, indicate two substitute choices: _____ _____

Please send me the back issues I have checked off. I have enclosed $5 for each issue as payment in full or provided my credit card number to charge my purchase ($20 minimum). Send To:

LONDON PUBLISHING CO.
P.O. BOX 910
FT. WASHINGTON, PA 19034

ONLY $5 EACH

☐ Check or money order (enclosed and payable to London Publishing Co.)

☐ VISA # _____

☐ MasterCard # _____

Expiration Date: __/__ (MO/YR)

Name _____

Address _____ Apt. _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

For all orders except the U.S., you must add $1.50 for every back issue to be sent via surface mail, and $3.00 for every back issue to be sent airmail. Int'l money order in U.S. funds only. Please allow 6-8 weeks for delivery.

7465/3-06

AMERICA'S LAST HOPE

Can Rahman Stem The Eastern European Invasion?

PHOTO BY TIMOTHY A. CLARY/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

By William Dettloff

The irony is startling. It was just under 25 years ago that American fight fans in large numbers looked at Gerry Cooney, a big, white, Irish-Catholic heavyweight contender, as representing the best and maybe last good chance they had at seeing a white heavyweight champion. Their desperate wishes and some shrewd promotion made Cooney's spirited but doomed challenge of Larry Holmes in Las Vegas the richest prizefight in history to that point.

The Hasim Rahman-Oleg Maskaev fight on August 12 in Las Vegas won't break any attendance or pay-per-view records, but the odd parallels are noteworthy. When

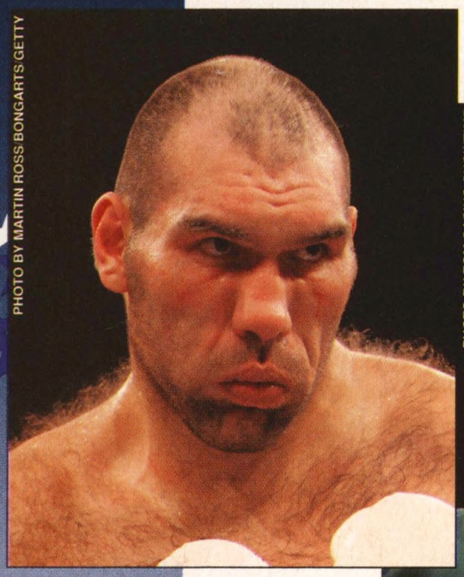


PHOTO BY MARTIN ROSS BONGARTS/GETTY

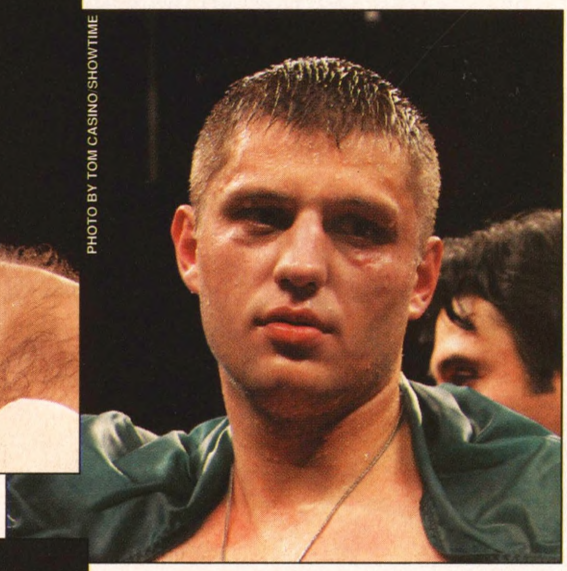


PHOTO BY TOM CASINO/SHOWTIME

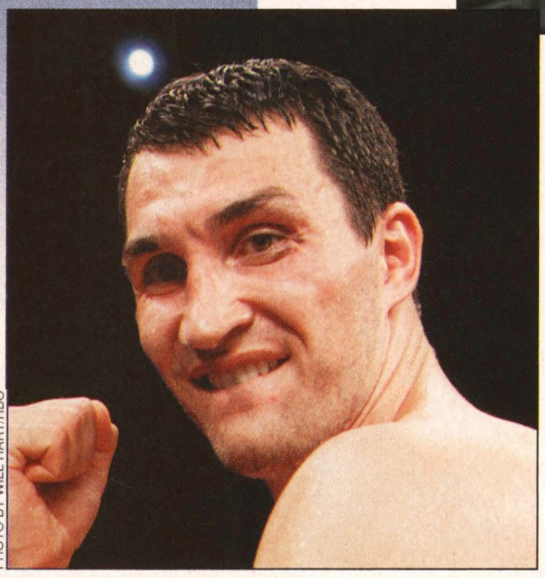


PHOTO BY WILL HART/HBO

Can Rahman stem the tide of former Soviet Union boxers who now dominate the heavyweight division, such as Nicolay Valuev (upper left), Sergei Liakhovich (above), and Wladimir Klitschko (lower left).

Rahman, a Muslim, African-American heavyweight contender meets Maskaev, who is nearly as fair-skinned as Cooney, American fans in large numbers will see Rahman as the best and maybe last chance they have of seeing an American world heavyweight champion. Many will be pulling for him. This proves two things: Things can change radically in 25 years. And nationalism trumps race.

Indeed, Top Rank, the promoter of Rahman-Maskaev, has dubbed the fight "America's Last Line Of Defense." It's overblown and hokey of course—imagine that—and maybe a tad distasteful considering America is right now at war. But it's not inaccurate. The upper reaches of the heavyweight division are teeming with fighters from the former Soviet Union. Each is an alphabet titleholder and while none should be considered the heavyweight champion, their collective impact on boxing's most visible weight class is undeniable.

Wladimir Klitschko, who decimated Chris Byrd in his last appearance, hails from the Ukraine. Sergei Liakhovich, whose upset win over Lamon Brewster puts him in the thick of the heavyweight title picture, is from Belarus. The giant Russian Nicolay Valuev did what a host of American contenders—including Rahman—couldn't do when he outpointed John Ruiz to break into the top 10.

If Maskaev, a native of Kazakhstan, beats Rahman, all four belt holders and, more significantly, four of the top 10 heavyweight contenders, will be from the former Soviet Union, and each will have recent victories over credible, highly rated American heavyweights.

The question is if Maskaev, who is a full rung or two below the top heavyweights and landed this date only as a result of the WBC's apparently insatiable desire to embarrass itself, can improve on recent performances and duplicate the win he scored over Rahman in November 1999 in Atlantic City.

You'll recall that meeting as a sloppy but entertaining slugfest that Rahman was winning, primarily on the strength of his left jab, until a later-round fade gave Maskaev a chance. A combination topped by a walloping right sent Rahman through the ropes, skidding across HBO's ringside table, and onto the concrete floor, where he was immediately set upon by ringside physicians (which, purists will note, prevented him from re-entering the ring by the 20-count, a consideration the rules afforded him). Almost immediately a melee broke out among ringside patrons, happily topping off a solid night of first-rate entertainment.

On the surface at least, it would seem the first fight gives Rahman a clear blueprint of how to proceed the second time around: Get in better shape to prevent the late-round fade. After all, the fight was more or less in hand until the knockout.

"What happened in the first fight with Maskaev was an abomination," said long-time fight manager Stan Hoffman. Hoffman advised Rahman from the late-'90s right up through Rahman's four-round bludgeoning of Kali Meehan in November '04. "After Rock saw Oliver McCall knock out Maskaev in a round, he figured he could stop him in one or two rounds, so he didn't train. He just wasn't in shape.

"He knows better now and he'll be able to beat him—if he fights the right way," said Hoffman. "I'd like to see him box, box, box over the first half of the fight, wear him down. And, in the second half, if he feels like he wants to punch, then he can. He's got an incredible left jab, and he has to use that jab like crazy."

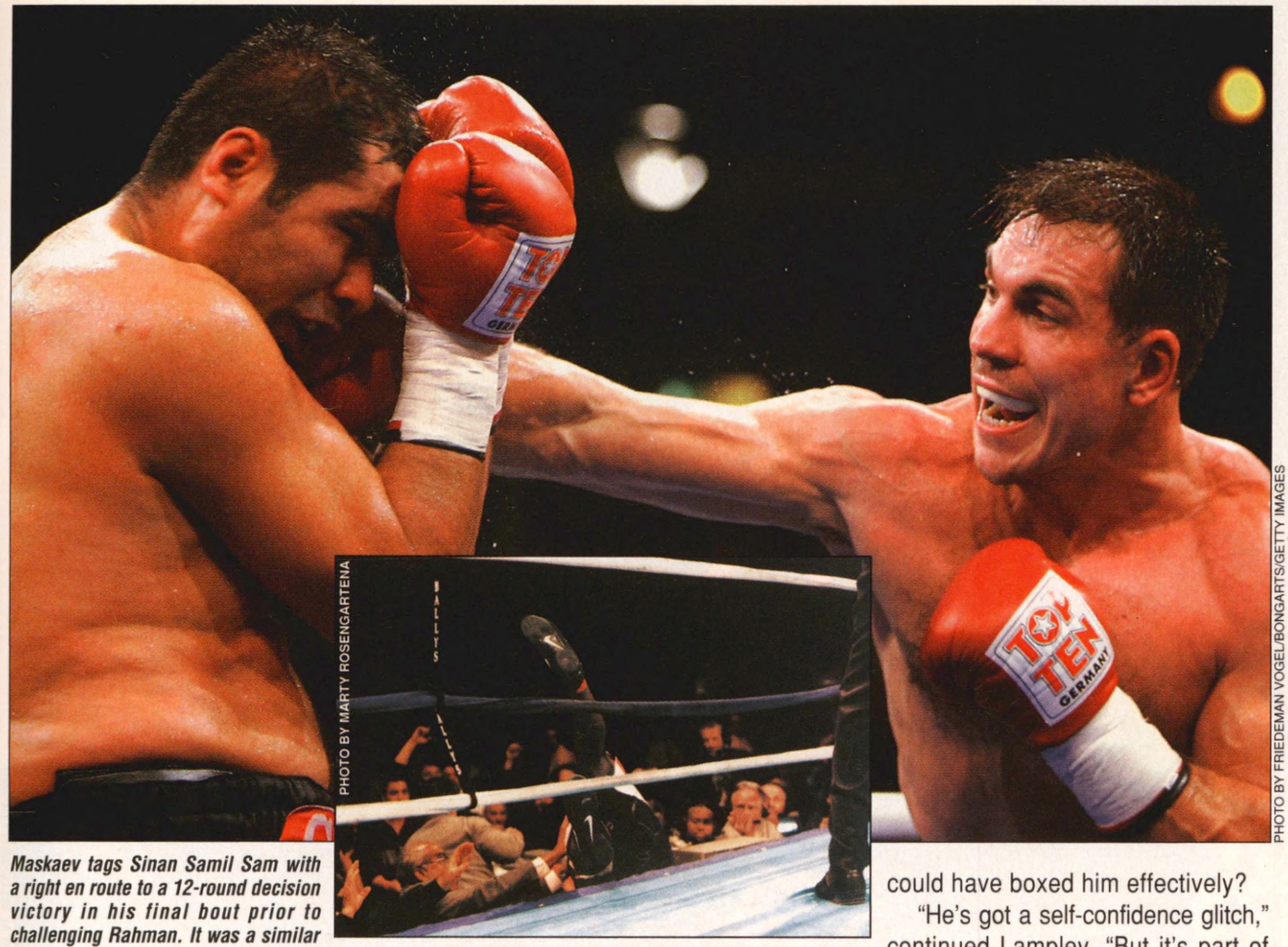


PHOTO BY FRIEDEMAN VOGEL/BONGARTS/GETTY IMAGES

PHOTO BY MARTY ROSENGARTEN

Maskaev tags Sinan Samil Sam with a right en route to a 12-round decision victory in his final bout prior to challenging Rahman. It was a similar punch that put Rahman through the ropes and out of the ring (inset) when Maskaev stopped him in 1999.

Rahman, 41-5-2 (33), has proffered the same alibi in recent days, and it makes sense. Who wouldn't dismiss Maskaev after the way he folded against McCall? What it doesn't explain is Rahman's maddening inconsistency since. He came back from the loss to Maskaev to win five straight, including his huge knockout win over Lennox Lewis to win the world heavyweight title. Lewis nearly decapitated him in the rematch, and then Evander Holyfield, who subsequent events would reveal was in a precipitous free-fall, won a technical decision over him. And don't be misled by the fact that a giant hematoma led to the fight's end; Holyfield was clearly in charge.

You know the rest: a disputed draw against David Tua, then an inexplicable decision loss to Ruiz, during which Rahman was hurt several times. He hasn't impressed in any great way since, with a points win over Monte Barrett and draw against James Toney. It may be that he was fortunate to see his challenge of Vitali Klitschko thrice postponed before Klitschko abruptly retired. With the exception of the first Lewis fight, he's managed to find a way to lose, literally or figuratively, whenever he's gotten close to the prize.

"He's a smart, warm, self-effacing guy who is constantly rejecting his success," said HBO's Jim Lampley, by whose chest Rahman flew at the conclusion of his first meeting with Maskaev. "He's also the ultimate underachiever. He's sort of gleefully happy being his own worst enemy. He may have an impostor complex, thinking, *Deep in my heart of hearts, I don't really feel like I'm the best guy, so I'm going to trash it.* How else do you explain his coming in at 270 pounds against Tua, and constantly following James Toney to the ropes when all he had to do was step to the center of the ring and wait for Toney to come to him, where he could have boxed him effectively?

"He's got a self-confidence glitch," continued Lampley. "But it's part of what makes him lovable. It's part of his charm. He's very warm and witty and openly acknowledges that he's his own worst enemy. Even to the point of not being angry when he receives criticism, and even when that criticism is withering."

The addition of respected veteran trainer Thell Torrence hasn't worked entirely against Rahman's apparent penchant for self-destruction. Torrence joined the team just before Rahman's blowout of Meehan, and the fire Rahman showed that night elicited enthusiasm from his supporters. But a mediocre performance against Barrett followed, and then the draw against Toney.

Torrence is the latest in a long line of trainers Rahman has employed with varying degrees of success, but zero stability: Adrian Davis, Bouie Fisher, Buddy McGirt, Roger Mayweather all did their time with him; all are gone. (Davis' tenure was particularly entertaining—who can forget that he and Rahman weren't even on speaking

PHOTO BY AL BELLO/GETTY IMAGES

While Rahman is well-known for the right hand that kayoed Lennox Lewis, many insiders believe his left jab, such as this one he's ramming into James Toney's face, is his best punch, especially when he uses it in conjunction with his underrated boxing skills.

terms going into the rematch with Lewis?) Hoffman says Rahman has always had a problem taking orders.

"He doesn't listen to his trainer very often," Hoffman said. "He just believes he knows better than anyone does what he's doing. He's always searching for the next guy who will be 'The Guy.' But then *he'll* decide what he wants to do. He wants trainers who will listen to him, rather than trainers who tell him what to do. He just believes in himself that much."

Rahman seemed to acknowledge as much at a press conference announcing the fight and promised it would be different this time. "I'm going to let my trainer set the game plan," he said. "If he wants me to go in there and box him, I'll box him. If he wants me to go in there and just go for broke, we can do that. I'm going to listen to my trainer in this fight. But whatever I do, I'm going to come out with the knockout."

Others have doubts. "Rahman's a really good boxer. The thing is, he's got a big head," said world-class trainer Ronnie Shields. "He thinks he can knock everyone out. If he's got a plan to box a guy for 12 rounds and he hurts him once, he won't stick with the plan. He'll try to knock the guy out."

It's one of the reasons Shields likes Maskaev, 32-5 (25) to beat him again.

"I like Maskaev," Shields said. "He's a big guy, and he can punch. I'd tell him to jump right on Rahman and put some fear into him. He's got that knockout win over him, and Rahman will never forget that. I know Rahman has a big heart, but he'll never forget that this guy knocked him out. If that doesn't work, I'd go to whatever the next plan is, but I'd definitely have him jump on Rahman at the start."

About Rahman's claim that he underestimated Maskaev the first time and didn't train, Shields said, "Fighters always have excuses after they lose. He says he didn't train. It's not Maskaev's fault Rahman didn't train. *He* trained. And he knocked Rahman out. I think Rahman's a good fighter, but Maskaev has a great chance because he's a puncher. People can sleep on him if they want to, but he's a good fighter. He's got heavy hands."

Maskaev's problems involve not his hands, but his durability. And maybe his psyche. Certainly you can forgive the April '97, 11-round knockout loss David Tua. Maybe too the loss to McCall, way back in February '96 when Maskaev, a six-fight novice, was inexplicably thrown in against a guy, as wacky as McCall is, who'd already knocked out Lewis for the WBC title. If you're in a really generous mood, you could even forgive the

PHOTO BY FRIEDEMAN VOGEL/BONGARTS/GETTY IMAGES

Rahman will undoubtedly enter the ring as the betting favorite, but there are some who believe Maskaev has the muscle to spring an upset. Both men can punch and both have been knocked out, so anything is possible.

March '02 kayo loss to the towering Corey Sanders (the American, not the South African, though both versions could punch).

It's not as easy to write off the October 2000, four-round stoppage loss to Kirk Johnson, still a good, fast heavyweight at the time, but not a big puncher. Same with the second-round collapse in his very next fight against Lance Whitaker, in which Maskaev appeared terrified before getting caught with a right hand and going to sleep in the center of the ring. Either way, forgive none of them or all of them; it's five knockout losses. Maskaev has never heard a ring announcer call out a decision in his opponent's favor. So how was he able to wade through Rahman's best stuff on the way to sending him out of the ring all those years ago?

"Rahman is overrated as a puncher because of the big right he landed on Lennox, and underrated as a boxer," said Lampley. It's true. Arguably, and somewhat oddly, Rahman's two most impressive career performances came against Tua, who was especially vulnerable to Rahman's jab-and-move tactics.

Remember that Tua's victory in the first fight came after he hurt Rahman after the bell ending the ninth round and jumped on him to begin the 10th. Rahman led on all cards at the time of the stoppage. The draw verdict in the second fight was a shock to most ringsiders, who thought Rahman, despite appearing woefully under-conditioned, clearly outboxed Tua and even floored him at the final bell (though he wasn't credited with a knockdown).

We have come to think of Rahman as a kind of poor man's Tim Witherspoon, a fighter whose principle weapon is a thudding overhand right. It's not accurate. He's at his best when he can move, control the tempo of the fight with his jab, and stay outside. It's at least partly why he looked so terrible against Barrett and, to a lesser degree, against Toney, whose main stock is his ability to make other fighters look dreadful. He had to go after both. Maskaev, who can fight only one way, coming forward, would seem to be made for him. But that was the case in their first fight too.

If Maskaev can keep his head together, keep the pressure on Rahman, wear him down, and get to the late rounds, he could do it again. It says here he will. And for those of you who like to keep track of the world's never-ending ironies, here are two more: Maskaev is trained by Victor Valle Jr., the son of the man who trained Cooney. He's managed by Dennis Rappaport, who, along with Mike Jones, managed Cooney all those years ago. Weird. ■

BARRERA STILL FIGHTS ON HIGH OCTANE

BUT IS THE TANK RUNNING OUT?

Barrera may have won a belated decision over Juarez on the judges' scorecards against Juarez, but "The Baby-Faced Assassin" took some punishing blows against his younger, more powerful opponent.

By Ivan Goldman

PHOTOS BY CHRIS POLK/HBO

Marco Antonio Barrera didn't do any cartwheels after he was declared the split-decision victor over Rocky Juarez. Those who saw the match on HBO didn't get to see his reaction, but he didn't look any more cheerful than he did minutes earlier, when Michael Buffer, getting incorrect information from the arithmetic-challenged California commission, announced the gruel-

For the first six rounds against Juarez, Barrera looked like the Barrera of old. He owned the first half of the fight, connecting with stinging left hooks (above) and crunching uppercuts (below). Conspicuously missing, however, was his famous left hook to the body.

Rugged Jesus Chavez was originally scheduled to fight Barrera, but when Chavez injured his arm training, Juarez stepped in against Barrera without hesitation. "I have never doubted my ability as a fighter," Juarez said. "That's why I took the fight with Barrera."

ing, physical fight a draw. Except when he's perpetrating some kind of subterfuge in the ring, Barrera is an absolute straight shooter, and he knew that whatever the scores, the contest was close and tough, and that 17 years after turning pro, he'd been banged up in yet another war.

Both fighters were back in their dressing rooms by the time the commission informed them of the math error. At the postfight news conference, Barrera, 62-4 (42), accepted his victory, but he refused to embrace it. "The fans saw an excellent fight," he said, "and that's what's important." He called Juarez, 26, a great fighter. "He hits very hard with both hands," Barrera said. Juarez, without getting obnoxious, said he felt he'd controlled his celebrated opponent and that he deserved the victory. Not surprisingly, he and his team immediately asked for a rematch.

There was a big question mark about just what Barrera, 32, might do next. As he and his team discussed possibilities, no one even brought up the idea of retirement. But if no one around him was leading him to examine that option, he was not well-served.

However you scored the contest, it was razor-close. Afterward, it was clear the two fighters were on different trajectories, with consequences in ironic reverse of normal expectations. Loser Juarez, after standing toe to toe with the great Barrera for 12 rounds, had improved his prospects.

And Barrera? "I think he won the fight," said retired junior featherweight world champion Paulie Ayala. "But he's just about at the end. He might have one or two fights in him. But he didn't used to show the wear and tear as much. Juarez' punches definitely affected him. He should be thinking about how many more fights he wants."

It's rarely easy for a fighter to face the merciless certainty of time. In Barrera's case, reality strikes with special force. The vast majority of fighters love the sport, but they turned to it out of desperation, looking for a way out of a closed circle of tough, mean circumstances. Barrera may be the most celebrated exception to the rule. Born into a comfortable, upper-middle-class family in Mexico City, he had plenty of other options. His father worked in film. He was a law student who gave up his studies because he loved prize-fighting more. And now the sport was beginning to turn away from him.

Because of a long, long list of remarkable feats, Barrera is a shoo-in for the Hall of Fame. Were it not for the diety-like pedestal where they place the retired Julio Cesar Chavez, Mexican fans might legitimately consider Barrera at the same level. A milestone before his remarkable trilogy with arch-rival Erik Morales was Barrera's kayo victory over Kennedy McKinney 10 years ago, when the two warriors launched HBO's *Boxing After Dark*. The historic battle wasn't Fight of the Year only because that's the year Evander Holyfield upset Mike Tyson with an 11th-round kayo in their first meeting.

Barrera-McKinney was a junior featherweight contest, and his bout

Barrera had enough left at the end to ward off the late charge by Juarez, convincing two of the three judges to score the final round even. Juarez' camp insisted on a rematch.

with Juarez was in the super feather division. But it's worthwhile to compare the Barrera who defeated McKinney with the Barrera who defeated Juarez a decade later, also in Los Angeles.

The 1996 Barrera hadn't yet acquired the boxing skills of the 2006 Barrera. He relied even more on power and aggression. Yet his superior speed and stamina made him more versatile and dangerous. He could get underneath the thudding right hands even of a quick, powerful puncher like McKinney and punish him with vicious, nearly unstoppable left hooks to the body. The hooks seemed to hone in on their target with an intelligence all their own. When he got caught with a right hand, he could almost always absorb it and come back strong. And without ever taking a round off, he still had enough in the tank to knock McKinney down in rounds eight and nine, get up from a knockdown in the 11th, and put McKinney down twice in the 12th, when he finally stopped him.

But the '06 Barrera lacked all those physical tools, particularly the stamina. "After the eighth round," said respected trainer-cutman Miguel Diaz, Barrera "had nothing to fight with but his heart. He was dead."

Juarez, who fought on the 2000 U.S. Olympic team, was able to take away the trademark hook to the body, and without it, Barrera just wasn't the same Barrera. "Rocky was ready for that," Ayala said. "He would have had to open himself up to throw that hook. It's what happened to Roy Jones. He lost that half-second, and it changed everything."

For the most part, Barrera won the first half of the fight. Juarez, 25-2 (18), came on in the second half to win most of those rounds as he wore down his dangerous but increasingly drained opponent.

Barrera had been originally scheduled to challenge Jesus Chavez for his lightweight alphabet title, but the tough Texan injured his arm training and it was another Texan, Juarez, who entered the Staples Center ring. Barrera had fought many times in the Los Angeles area when he was promoted by Forum Boxing, and it was his territory. For years he's trained at Big Bear, in the mountains above L.A. But the *Los Angeles Times*, the only serious English language daily that circulates all over the city, gave the card almost no pre-fight publicity and paid almost no attention afterward either.

Were it not for the Spanish-language media, led by *La Opinion*, the card would have been an even bigger secret. Also, this time Oscar De La Hoya's still-learning Golden Boy Promotions had no big Las Vegas casino to lend a hand. Under the circumstances, the turnout of 10,167 was a triumph.

Telefutura broadcaster Bernardo Osuna speculated that Barrera against Chavez would have drawn more fans. "Barrera is a draw," he said, "but people want to see him against other big names. Against Chavez he'd have been going for a title in his fourth weight division, which still means something."

Barrera's competitive nature has been both a blessing and a curse. When he was promoted by Forum Boxing, he probably fought more often than any major contemporary fighter in any weight division. And because he didn't develop his stick-and-move skills until he was well into his career, he's a veteran who took a lot of punches.

When he said yes to fighting Juarez, he understood he was taking a big risk for a relatively small reward. The previously undefeated Rocky had run into a determined, brawling Humberto Soto last August, and the decision loss that resulted cost him plenty. Suddenly, he was shunned by HBO and Showtime. The invitation to fight Barrera for one of the "interim" titles of dubious value was a lucky break. Juarez, who learned a hard financial lesson from his previous loss, believed he couldn't afford another. "I have

FOR SALE

The Ring Championship Boxing Belts

- **Limited Edition Belts of LaMotta, Marciano, Moore, Robinson, Ortiz and others.**
- **Expertly crafted by the makers of all the current Ring Belts.**

For further information please contact
Newport Marketing, Inc.
901 Elm Street, Colon, MI 49040
269-432-9480 Fax 269-432-9560
nptmktg@aol.com

MOVING?

Kindly give us 8 weeks advance notice

Are you moving? If so, please give us 8 weeks advance notice so we can continue to service your subscription promptly. Check the magazine(s) below to which you subscribe:

☐ KO PRESENTS BOXING 2006
☐ WORLD BOXING
☐ THE RING

NAME

OLD ADDRESS

CITY

STATE ZIP

NEW ADDRESS

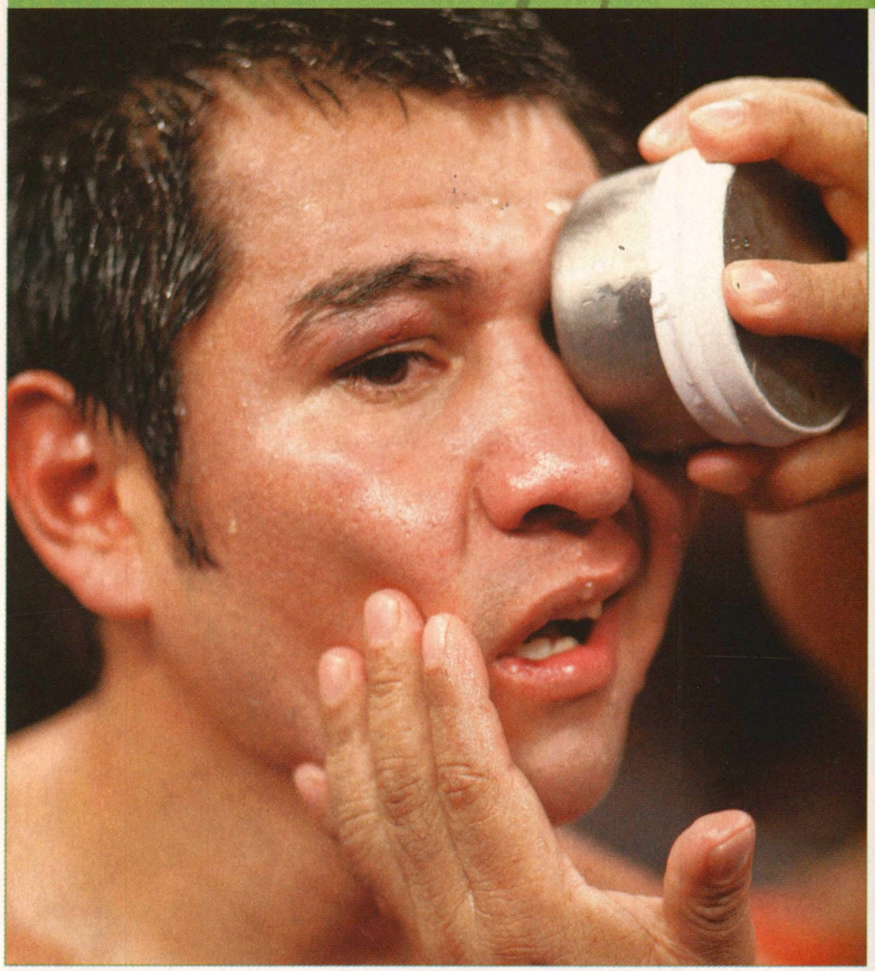
CITY

STATE ZIP

EFFECTIVE DATE

CLIP THIS FORM AND SEND TO:
LONDON PUBLISHING CO.
P.O. BOX 2085,
MARION, OH 43306-8185

5757/09-01/4c



The MGM Grand in Las Vegas has already earmarked November 4 for a Barrera fight against someone. The talk after the Juarez fight was that Barrera might want another shot against Manny Pacquiao or a move up to lightweight against larger opponents.

never doubted my ability as a fighter," he said. "That's why I took the fight with Barrera."

This was one tough fight to score. Many rounds looked even all the way to the 10-second bell, making them eminently stealable. The three judges were unanimous on only five of the 12 rounds, and all three scored it close. Duane Ford scored the fight 115-114 for Juarez, while Ken Morita and Anek Hongtogkham had it 115-114 for Barrera. THE RING saw it 114-114.

Barrera led on all three cards after round six. In the first half, Barrera mixed up combinations intelligently, and he was sharp and unpredictable. But in his eagerness to retaliate for Juarez' sharp shots, he sometimes squared up, a bad habit he picked up during his early career, when he could almost always overpower his opponent.

Barrera's stiff jab opened a cut in Juarez' eyelid during round one, and after round two, Barrera's nose bled profusely. They gave each other room in round one, but then alternated their distance. Barrera was staggered after a Juarez hook in round three, but mostly because he was too squared up to keep his balance.

Round six, which saw even more action than its predecessors, had Barrera winning an exchange at the end. All three judges gave him the round. In the seventh, Rocky made it close, winning on one card. Barrera appeared to be taking round eight off, resting on his toes and avoiding contact. When he repeated this in the ninth, it indicated he was running out of fuel. Referee Raul Caiz stopped the action to reinsert Barrera's mouthpiece in the seventh and eighth rounds.

Round 10 was big for Juarez. He landed hard right uppercuts and had Barrera backing away almost desperately. But finding energy somewhere, Barrera perked up in the 11th and 12th,

Both fighters had their hands raised at the final bell, after the scoring was incorrectly tabulated and the result was announced as a draw. It wasn't until the fighters were back in the locker room that they were informed of the error.

matching Juarez' output. The Mexico City veteran won the last few seconds of the last round of a punishing battle. Judges Duane Ford and Ken Morita both scored the round a draw.

Juarez, making his case for a rematch, did it in two languages, but his Spanish was halting. That makes him a harder sell among many Hispanic fans and is yet another reason for Golden Boy to look elsewhere for Barrera's next match.

Juarez' manager, Shelly Finkel, pointed out that Barrera got away with a number of low blows and losing his mouthpiece twice. But the low blows weren't flagrantly low, and, as for the mouthpiece, Barrera seemed to have real problems keeping it in place. Losing it didn't look like a ruse. "We're not complaining," Finkel said after complaining. "All we want is a rematch."

Barrera, De La Hoya, and Golden Boy CEO Richard Schaefer all said a rematch is a possibility, but probably only Barrera meant it. "Manny Pacquiao is the fight [Barrera's] looking for," said Schaefer. But Pacquiao, who stopped Barrera in November 2003, was committed to taking on Oscar Larios and then Morales, making him an unlikely opponent. The MGM Grand in Las Vegas had slotted in Barrera for another match November 4, but not even a weight class, let alone an opponent, was certain. He could go up to lightweight as originally planned and take on someone like Chavez, Joel Casamayor, Diego Corrales, Juan Lazcano, Acelino Freitas, or Zahir Raheem. But almost every one would have a considerable size advantage.

Junior lightweight mountains to climb would be Pacquiao, Larios, or Jorge Barrios, who, in the co-feature, finished off Janos Nagy with one bodyshot seconds after the opening bell.

"I don't think he has anything to prove," Ayala concluded. "There's nothing out there Barrera hasn't done already." He could pack it in now and go out a winner in a tough fight against a tough opponent—every fighter's dream. But, of course, they always seem to want one more payday, one more great night. Barrera would do well to take a close look at the career of Ayala, a terrific fighter who ended his career getting stopped by a bigger, younger man—whose name was Marco Antonio Barrera. ■

Ivan Goldman is THE RING's West Coast correspondent.

DON'T MISS

RING UPDATE WITH WILLIAM DETTLOFF

EVERY MONDAY ... EXCLUSIVELY ON: thering-online.com

Always insightful and often provocative, William Dettloff, *The Ring*'s senior writer, is the thinking-fans' columnist, a writer who never settles for the same old stale commentary you've already read a dozen times. For example, here's Dettloff's take on a handful of hot topics:

The dangers of boxing: "Long after you and I and everyone we know are long gone, men will still be fighting one another with their fists, and sometimes bad things will happen as a result. You may feel guilty about that fact if you wish. I will not."

Nicolay Valuev: "He's hairier than Robin Williams and facially looks an awful lot like Lurch from *The Addams Family*. In today's heavyweight division, that can get you a good long way."

The lack of a dominant heavyweight: "When a heavyweight champ is dominant, the only fun comes in wondering when someone will cut him down to size and how. We rush a guy to the top of the mountain just for the pleasure of watching him get knocked off."

Dettloff on thering-online.com ... The perfect way to answer the week's opening bell!

4748/05.06

Cotto walks to a neutral corner after knocking down Malignaggi in the second round of their bout at Madison Square Garden. The New Yorker beat referee Steve Smoger's count and carried on to give a plucky account of himself, despite eventually losing a unanimous 10-round decision.

Recipe for Success

How To Fill The Garden Without A Superfight

By Don Stradley
PHOTOS BY NICK LAHAM/GETTY IMAGES

Jose Torres was ringside for the recent Madison Square Garden extravaganza headlined by Miguel Cotto and Paulie Malignaggi. The former light heavyweight champion admired Malignaggi, but was picking Cotto to win. "It's hard for me to be objective because I love that kid," said Torres.

A Puerto Rican star in the 1960s, Torres has enjoyed watching Cotto carry on the tradition of boxing stars from the island. For the second year in a row, Cotto was fighting at the Garden on the eve of New York's annual Puerto Rican Day parade. "He's emerging as a star," said Torres. Cotto, a native of Caguas, Puerto Rico, was to march in the parade.

Cotto's Puerto Rican fans were not the only faction at the Garden on June 10. Top Rank, in association with DiBella Entertainment, had concocted a nice boxing event using the oldest promotional technique in boxing: the ethnic potboiler. Malignaggi, a Brooklyn-born fighter who spent part of his child-

John Duddy acknowledges his fans after stopping veteran Freddy Cuevas. The popular Irishman is rapidly becoming a huge attraction in New York City and did his part to help lure more than 14,000 paying customers to the Garden.

hood in Sicily, had a large following of Italian-Americans; John Duddy, a middleweight from Derry, Ireland, who now lives in Queens, brought in nearly as many fans as the headliners. The Irish ticketholders also rooted for heavyweight novelty act Tom Zbikowski, who is Polish but plays for Notre Dame's Fighting Irish football team. Judging by the 14,369 in attendance, the ethnic strategy still works.

"It was a magical night," said Lee Samuels of Top Rank. "Everything worked perfectly. We made a decision to bring fun back to the people in the arena who bought tickets." As for courting ethnic groups, "That's the way the show was constructed, to appeal to one and all. There was something for everyone. Mission accomplished. I think we broke a record for flag waving."

There'd been some anxiety on Top Rank's part when Golden Boy Promotions and HBO scheduled the Bernard Hopkins-Antonio Tarver pay-

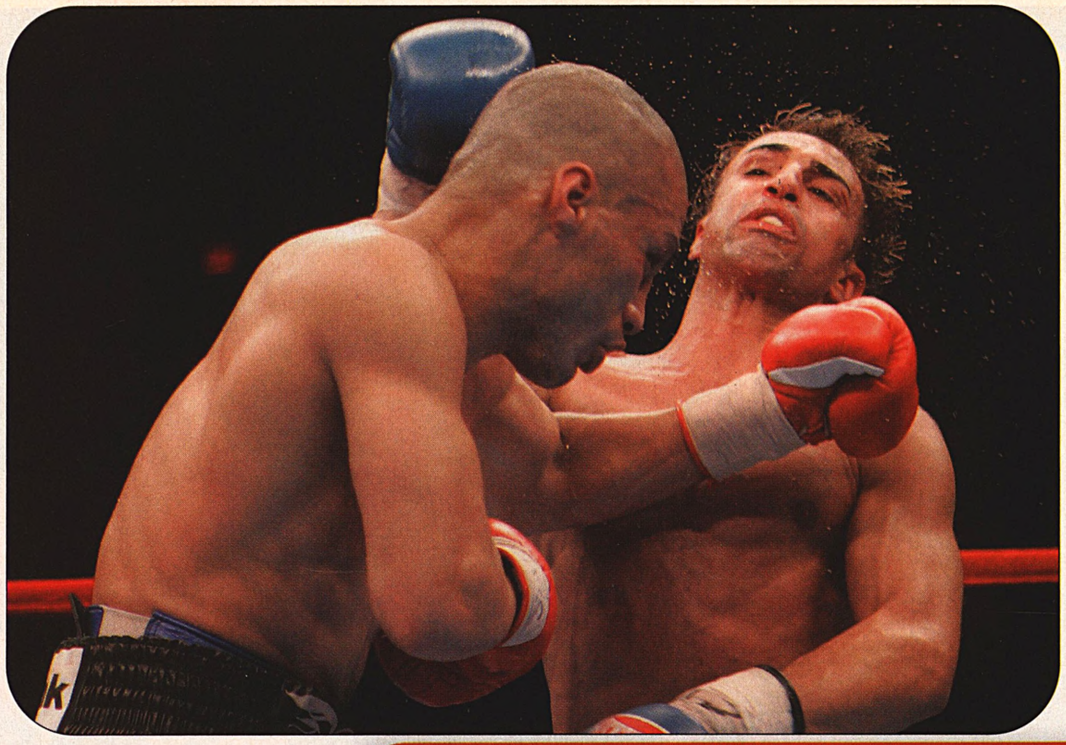
Notre Dame defensive back Zbikowski, making his pro debut, also sold a lot of tickets and created plenty of publicity for the show. He was rewarded by being fed no-hoper Robert Bell, who lasted just 49 seconds before referee Arthur Mercante Jr. stopped the mismatch.

Malignaggi rips into Cotto with a spirited counter-attack during their entertaining bout. The Italian-American managed to land his share of blows against the highly favored Puerto Rican, but lacked the punching power to do much damage.

per-view in Atlantic City on the same day as Cotto-Malignaggi, but no one in the Garden crowd would have traded places with the Atlantic City fans. And the number of ticket-buyers in New York was much larger than last year's June show, when Cotto fought Mohamad Abdulaev, with Duddy also on the undercard. The approximately 4,000 additional fans were likely because of Malignaggi's Brooklyn connection and the growing popularity of Duddy. But while Samuels agrees the ethnic angle played a large part in the show's success, he added, "You also have to put in interesting matches where the fans believe either guy can win, and bring fun back. Make it an experience. Bob [Arum] actually met with a music specialist to plan out some prefight music, and he made sure things kept moving with music in between rounds. And for some reason, every fighter on the card gave their all."

The preliminary bouts were all slugfests. Junior middleweight Luis Sanchez, 3-1-1 (1), was decked by Ray Gonzales, 1-1 (1) early in the opening round, took a beating for 2½ minutes, and then kayoed Gonzales with a single shot at the 2:57 mark. Peter Quillan, 5-0 (4), a junior middleweight from New York, calls himself "Kid Chocolate" and threw chocolate treats into the audience after his 93-second stoppage of journeyman Eddy O'Neal, 8-13-2 (1). Curtis Stevens, 13-0 (11), of Brownsville, New York, kayoed Tennessee's Eric Howard, 11-13-1 (6), after six hard rounds. Except for a one-sided women's bout, the off-TV fights were competitive and entertaining.

The enthusiasm carried into the televised part of the card. Puerto Rico's Juan Manuel Lopez, 12-0 (10), revved up the crowd by beating Mexico's Sergio Mendez, 4-1 (1), on points over six. Zbikowski won his pro debut by stopping a terribly out-of-shape Robert Bell, 2-3 (2), in 49 seconds (we understand the need for fresh new gimmicks, but if we never have to hear the Notre Dame fight song again, we'll be happy). Mexico's



It was batting practice for Cotto the final few rounds as he cemented victory with a two-fisted attack. But, although he connected with his vaunted left hook on many occasions, he couldn't stop his gritty opponent.

Julio Cesar Chavez Jr., 26-0-1 (20), entered the ring to a chant of *"llame a su papi"* ("Call your daddy!"), but his convincing second-round dispatch of Aaron Drake, 10-2 (8), turned the jeers to cheers.

The crowd and their demeanor impressed even Garden security. One old-timer, commenting on how well-behaved the crowd seemed, said he'd seen more hostile crowds at the New York Golden Gloves. The June 10 crowd was festive, rather than combative. "We never have trouble in the stands," said Samuels. "The Garden has that reputation, but not at our shows."

But even if ethnic passions had turned dark, it was still the best way to promote boxing in New York. The politics and finances involved in putting on boxing at the Garden is mind-boggling, and promoters want to be sure the place is well-attended come fight night. The best way to guarantee that is by appealing to New York's ethnic groups. Arum has already booked Cotto in the Garden for next June 9, the eve of next year's Puerto Rican Day parade.

"Cotto mentioned that he wants to try 147," said Samuels, "so we have to see where he wants to fight. There could be a fight between Cotto and Ricky Hatton next year. Granted, a year is a lifetime in boxing, but we think next year's show will be even bigger."

Still, if next year's show is bigger, we doubt we'll see anything to match the raw courage shown by Malignaggi. At times, it seemed like he had turned into Jake LaMotta. Who knew he had it in him?

Malignaggi's story is classic. He was a poor kid who spent part of his childhood battling an abusive stepfather and running with truants. An uncle finally took him to Gleason's Gym hoping to teach him some respect. Like so many dead end kids, Malignaggi was rescued by boxing. He was so green in those days he tried to wear his protective cup as headgear. In a recent interview with Thomas Hauser, he said, "There were all these pictures of great fighters on the walls. People were working out, hitting speedbags, and sparring. Someone put me in front of a mirror and started teaching me how to throw a jab. And I said to myself, *I like this.* For the first time in my life, I wanted to learn."

But as Malignaggi walked into the piercing cacophony of Madison Square Garden on June 10, there was a sense that he was stepping into something much bigger than he'd imagined. It was his first pay-per-view main event, and he was facing Arum's prized bull. Malignaggi's cornermen tried to lighten the mood by performing a funny rumba when Cotto's bouncy intro music sounded, but Malignaggi, usually a wise guy, tried to contain his nerves. This was the night, Malignaggi had said, when people would see that he'd made something of himself.

He stayed close to Cotto during the early rounds, perhaps to test the Puerto Rican's strength. There'd been rumors that Cotto, 138¼, had drained himself to make weight, but although he was honed to a greyhound's sleekness, Cotto was as strong and confident as ever. Malignaggi's rewards for staying close was a cut on his left eyebrow that happened after a first-

Pacquiao stopped Kelley and probably ended his career

Kelley May Have Reached The End

Brooklyn-born Kevin Kelley had given New York fight fans many memorable nights, and he was clearly the crowd favorite when he entered the ring at Madison Square Garden to face Bobby Pacquiao. There was a feeling, however, that his soon-to-be 39-year-old legs wouldn't carry him through to victory against the younger fighter.

Kelley, 128, Las Vegas, Nevada, started out well by doubling his jab and using his feet to get in and out of range, but, very late in the third, he was skulled by a Pacquiao left hook and went down hard. He barely beat the count and returned to his corner in a daze. Pacquiao, 129½, General Santos City, Philippines, ran out of his corner for the fourth with a fury that would have made his more famous brother, Manny Pacquiao, quite proud. He fired a dozen punches at Kelley's head and arms before smashing a left to Kelley's body that dropped him a second time. Kelley writhed on the canvas as referee Steve Wills counted him out at the 1:24 mark.

Pacquiao, 27-11-3 (12), has not matched his brother's success, but he owns the same wiry frame and poverty-driven hunger to succeed. He's been kayoed a half-dozen times, which doesn't bode well for his future, but he's fun to watch.

It was a shame to see Kelley, 58-7-2 (39), so overwhelmed, but "The Flushing Flash" may have finally come to the end of his career. The night of the Pacquiao fight was just a few days short of 15th anniversary of Kelley winning the New York State featherweight title by stopping Job Walters in six rounds. Shortly after that, Kelley won the WBC featherweight title from Gregorio Vargas and made two successful defenses before losing to Alejandro Gonzales. More importantly, Kelley helped usher in a golden era for the featherweights. Any future featherweight who finds himself on HBO drawing a good-sized payday owes Kelley a tip of the cap.

—D.S.

round clash of heads, followed by a left hook in the second that put him on the seat of his pants. By the end of round two, Malignaggi was wide-eyed, like a child watching a horror movie unfold. He'd sincerely believed that history was on the side of the boxer, not the puncher, but things were off to an ugly start.

Malignaggi had already absorbed a lot of punishment by the beginning of round five, but he seemed to have solved his nerves and was warming to the task. He started firing off sweet combinations, doing enough to win the fifth and sixth on all three official scorecards. But Cotto won the seventh round big, sending the Brooklynite back to his corner looking like a tired, beaten fighter. Malignaggi's handlers and the ring physician huddled around him like a pit crew. Somehow, Malignaggi came out for the eighth and ninth like a new fighter, throwing combinations that had Cotto backing up and rethinking things. The crowd went into delirium when Malignaggi caught Cotto off-balance with a right and knocked him sideways. A chant of "Paulie! Paulie!" went up; Cottos' *seguidores* were momentarily silenced.

Cotto wasn't hurt, but prior to the 10th he made the sign of the cross and kissed his glove, an indication that this fight wasn't the walk-over many had expected. Malignaggi, meanwhile, was sporting an ominous swelling on the right side of his face, which turned out to be a cracked cheekbone. During the days before the fight, Malignaggi had expressed his appreciation for Arturo Gatti's stone-age toughness. "Sooner or later, all fighters get buzzed," said Malignaggi. "When it happens to me, people will see what I've got inside."

As Malignaggi, 138¼, used his popgun offense to disturb Cotto's bludgeoning rhythm, we were reminded of the slick light heavyweight champion, Willie Pastrano, who once visited the grave of a

Make Room For Duddy

If Kevin Kelley represents New York boxing's past, and Miguel Cotto and Paulie Malignaggi its present, Ireland's John Duddy could very well be New York boxing's bright and shiny future. Judging by the massive crowd response at Madison Square Garden when he entered the ring to face Chicago middleweight Freddy Cuevas, Duddy is growing as a commercial force. Irish pubs around the city were decorated with postcards advertising the fight, as if Duddy were in the main event, with Cotto-Malignaggi featured in small print underneath a large photo of the boyish-looking banger from Ireland.

Duddy, 158, boxed fairly well against Cuevas, though he did get tagged by a number of right hands. It may have seemed that Cuevas was landing more frequently, but Duddy has become adept at twisting and turning his body to roll away from punches. And anytime Cuevas, 25-9-1 (17), did land something, Duddy came back to hammer home much harder blows of his own. Cuevas, bloodied in the nose and mouth, slumped on his stool after the seventh, and referee Arthur Mercante Jr. stopped the fight on the advisement of Cuevas' corner.

Duddy's camp worked a shrewd deal for their man, turning down a $75,000 purse by offering to fight for a guaranteed $10,000, plus 50 percent of whatever ticket sales they generated. Duddy ended up with $135,000.

"I didn't come out as ferociously as I usually do," said Duddy, 17-0 (15). "I was in second gear most of the time. It was by no means a perfect performance, but I enjoyed myself."

While Duddy spoke to Irish reporters at ringside, Cuevas, a 36-year-old journeyman who has spent the last few years as a steppingstone for young middleweight prospects, stood in the ring and blew kisses to the crowd. His nose was bent like a piece of old plumbing, but he seemed to be in good spirits.

—D.S.

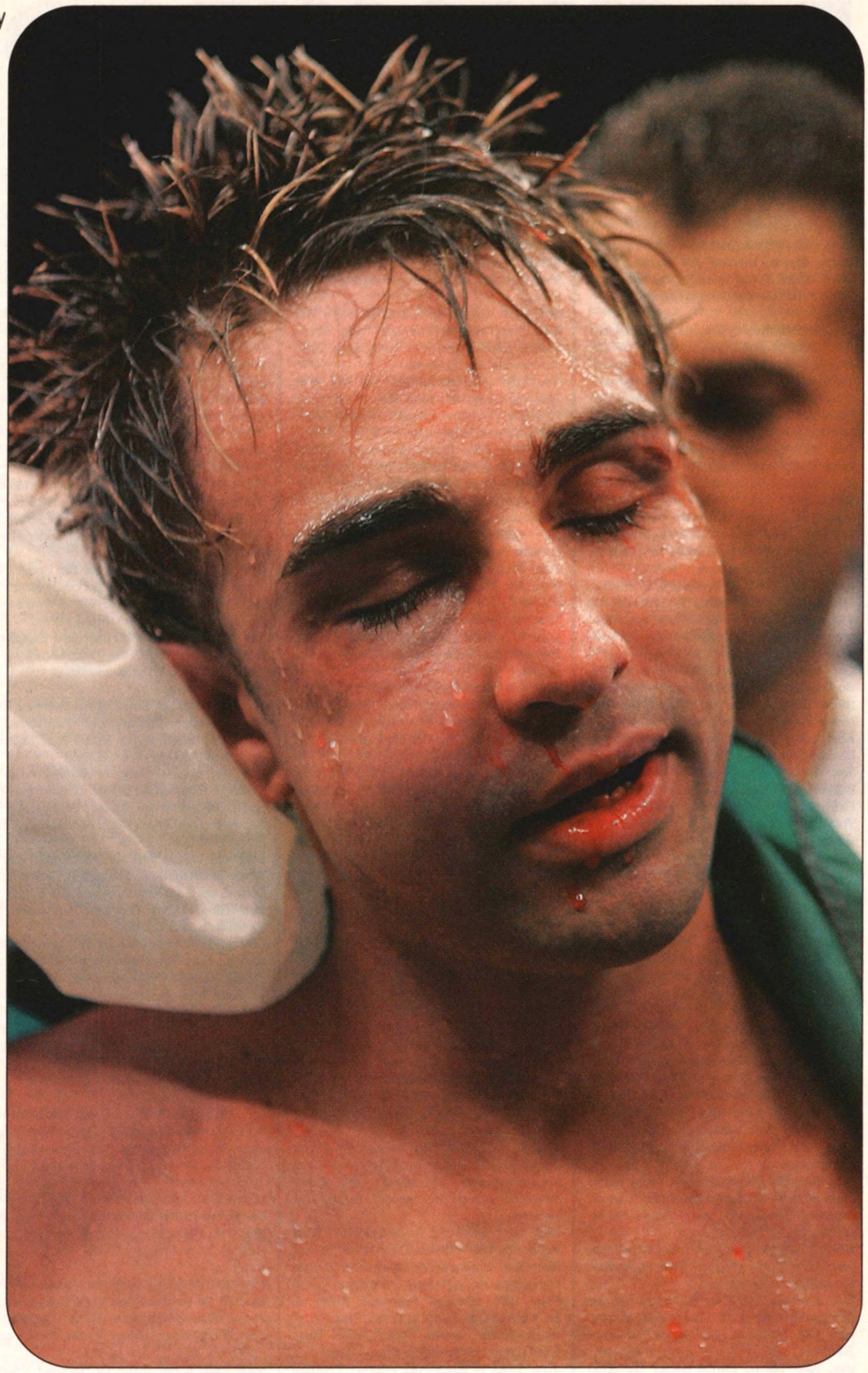
Fan favorite Duddy fires a right at Cuevas

famous New Orleans witch to pray for a right hand. The prayers must have worked because Pastrano soon won the championship. Malignaggi should find that dead witch's grave and do some praying; if he had a right hand to match his courage, he'd be a world-beater.

The final two rounds were batting practice for Cotto. Long strands of blood flew from Malignaggi's mouth every time Cotto connected, but Malignaggi never buckled. At one point Malignaggi clinched with Cotto and leaned over the ropes to smirk at the press row. We didn't know what he was trying to convey through his bloody mouthpiece, but, by now, he actually seemed more heroic than Gatti. Unlike Gatti, however, Malignaggi can't turn a fight around with a single punch.

When it was over, Malignaggi said Cotto, 28-0 (22), was the hardest hitter he'd ever faced, and he apologized for all of his prefight smack talk. It was all in fun, he said, not to be taken personally. Cotto praised Malignaggi's courage.

Judges Peter Trematerra and Glenn Feldman scored the bout 116-111, while Dan Trella saw it 115-112, all for Cotto. THE RING had it 115-112 for Cotto, who retains the WBO belt and is in search of big fights with Jose Luis Castillo, Hatton, Gatti, and perhaps Floyd Mayweather. Cotto had been brilliant in his own way, but his victory can't be praised without this qualifier: He was fighting a man who could not hurt him. As for Malignaggi, 21-1 (5), he was rushed to St. Vincent's hospital immediately after the fight for medical observations. It was suggested that he not fight again for six to eight months; the kind of stand-up beating he absorbed can harm a fighter should he return to action too soon.



Malignaggi paid a price for his bravery, suffering numerous battle wounds, including a broken face bone. Doctors have advised him not to fight again for at least six months.

As reporters filed past the ring after the fight, they noticed the canvas near Malignaggi's corner was speckled with gobs of blood the size of nickels. The gore reminded them of something Malignaggi had said before the fight. "My legacy begins by beating Cotto."

He didn't beat Cotto, but he may have started a legacy of a different kind. He did it in front of a mixed ethnic crowd that appreciates a tough guy no matter which flag is being waved. ■

Don Stradley, a freelance writer from Massachusetts and regular contributor, was ringside for Cotto-Malignaggi.

BACK ISSUES OF KO

Back issues of several editions of *KO Magazine*, the acknowledged leader in boxing journalism, are still available in limited quantity. Since its inception in 1980, *KO* has become known for its quality stories and columns and peak-action photographs. Don't delay. Supplies are running out!

June 1983: WBA Jr. Middleweight Champion Davey Moore: Bracing For Duran's Last Stand. Color Pinup: Donald Curry. Interview: Pinklon Thomas. Also: Duran-Cuevas, Hagler-Sibson.

Aug. 1983: Michael Spinks: King Of The Light Heavyweights ... But The Glory Can't Erase The Sadness. Color Pinup: Johnny Bumphus. Interview: Jones & Rappaport. Also: Jones-McCrory, Pryor-Arguello II preview, world's best fighter poll, Jeff Chandler, Mark Breland, Leon Spinks.

Oct. 1983: Is Larry Holmes Finished? Color Pinup: Greg Page. Interview: Marvis Frazier. Also: Marvin Hagler, Bobby Chacon, Jack Dempsey.

July 1984: Donald Curry: "I'm Better Under Pressure." Color Pinup: Gerrie Coetzee. Interview: Curry. Also: Pipino Cuevas, John Mugabi, Bill Costello, M. Spinks-Davis.

Aug. 1984: WBC Heavyweight Champion Terrible Tim Witherspoon: A Superstar Of Tomorrow? Color Pinup: Rocky Lockridge. Interview: Sugar Ray Leonard. Also: Marvin Hagler, Gomez-LaPorte.

Oct. 1984: Golden Boy Mark Breland: Can He Be The Next Sugar Ray? Color Pinup: Jaime Garza. Interview: Aaron Pryor. Also: Bramble-Mancini, Sugar Ray Leonard.

Nov. 1984: Thomas Hearns: "Hagler Is Shakin' Like A Leaf On A Tree!" Color Pinup: Tim Witherspoon. Interview: Livingstone Bramble. Also: Rosario-Davis, Marlon Starling.

Feb. 1985: Gerry Cooney: How Far Can He Go This Time? Color Pinup: Michael Spinks. Interview: Ray Mancini. Also: Dream fights, Hector Camacho.

March 1985: Next For Marvelous Marvin Hagler: The Only Fight That Really Matters. Color Pinup: Mike McCallum. Interview: Thomas Hearns. Also: Santos-Medal, Meza-Garza, Holmes-Bonecrusher.

May 1985: Thomas Hearns: *KO* Fighter Of The Year. Color Pinup: Gerry Cooney. Also: Camacho-Ramirez, Truth Williams, Year In Review.

July 1985: Aaron Pryor: Has Hawk Time Run Out? Color Pinup: Donald Curry. Interview: Greg Page. Also: Ray Mancini, James Shuler, Costello-Hatcher.

Aug. 1985: King Cobra: "Hagler-Hearns Is Done And I'm Better Than Both Of Them!" Color Pinup: John Mugabi. Interview: Bobby Czyz. Also: Larry Holmes, Roberto Duran, DeWitt-Lee.

Oct. 1985: Still Champ After All These Years: Larry Holmes—A Legend Continues To Grow. Interview: Mark Breland. Also: Michael Spinks, Milton McCrory, Wilfredo Gomez.

Nov. 1985: McGuigan! The Pluck Of The Irish. Also: Julio Cesar Chavez, Thomas-Weaver, Donald Curry, featherweights.

Dec. 1985: Pinklon Thomas: "Larry Holmes Betrayed Boxing." Color Pinup: Hagler-Mugabi. Also: Mike McCallum, Tyrell Biggs, Camacho-Ramirez.

Jan. 1986: Macho Mania! Hector Camacho Takes Aim At 10 Tough Targets. Color Pinup: Jimmy Paul. Interview: Alexis Arguello. Also: Truth Williams, Curry-McCrory.

Feb. 1986: King Michael: How Long Will He Rule The Heavyweights? Also: Barry McGuigan, Shawn O'Sullivan, Spinks-Holmes, *Rocky IV*, world's best fighter poll.

Oct. 1986: They're Back!!! The Cooney Circus Returns. Interview: Sugar Ray Leonard. Also: Jimmy Paul, Mike Tyson, Donald Curry.

Dec. 1986: Larry Holmes' Message To Mike Tyson: "Show Me You Can Kick My Butt!" Color pinup: Mark Breland. Interview: Holmes. Also: Witherspoon-Bruno, Evander Holyfield, Cruz-McGuigan, Danny Lopez.

Feb. 1987: Upset Of The Decade: Has Honeyghan Cut Short The Curry Era? Color Pinup: Marvin Johnson. Interview: Bobby Czyz. Also: Edwin Rosario, Hector Camacho.

June 1987: New WBA Welterweight Champion Mark Breland: He's Got A Lot To Smile About. Interview: Marvin Hagler. Color Pinup: Greg Haugen. Also: Michael Olajide, Carlos Monzon.

Oct. 1987: Greatness Beckons: When Will Mike Tyson Answer The Call? Color Pinup: Michael Olajide. Interview: Tyrell Biggs. Also: Paz-Haugen, Marvin Hagler.

Nov. 1987: Michael Spinks: The War With Tyson Is Okay With Him. Color Pinup: Vinny Pazienza. Interview: Frankie Duarte. Also: Matthew Hilton, Hagler-Czyz.

Dec. 1987: Mike Tyson: Undisputed Heavyweight King—But Is He Losing His Loyal Subjects? Color Pinup: Matthew Hilton. Interview: Barry McGuigan. Also: Aaron Pryor, Mike McCallum.

Jan. 1988: The Collapse Of A Hero: Why Breland Never Hit The Mark Of Greatness. Color Pinup: Michael Spinks. Interview: Aaron Pryor. Also: Michael Nunn, Alexis Arguello, lightweights.

Feb. 1988: Pazienza & Haugen Go For Each Other's Throats. Color Pinup: Marlon Starling. Interview: Bob Arum. Also: Tate-Olajide, ESPN Boxing.

July 1988: Superfight History Dictates: Don't Expect The Expected From Tyson-Spinks. Color Pinup: Roger Mayweather. Interview: Dr. Ferdie Pacheco. Also: Roberto Duran, Azumah Nelson, Barkley-Olajide.

Aug. 1988: Tyson-Spinks: *KO's* Fearless Forecast Of Superfight '88. Color Pinup: Buddy McGirt. Interview: Matthew Hilton. Also: Lockridge-Knight, Evander Holyfield, Lloyd Honeyghan.

Sept. 1988: Tyson-Spinks, The Aftermath—What If Tyson Wins; What If Spinks Wins? Color Pinup: Frank Tate. Interview: Marlon Starling. Also: Barry McGuigan, Simon Brown, risk-taking.

Oct. 1988: Middleweight Terrorism: Iran Bombs The Hit Man. Color Pinup: Don Lalonde. Interview: Frank Bruno. Also: Roger Mayweather, Marvin Hagler.

Dec. 1988: Sugar Ray's Comeback: Why? Color Pinup: Simon Brown. Interview: Kevin Rooney. Also: Michael Nunn, best fighter poll, welterweight wars.

Jan. 1989: The Troubled Times Of Mike Tyson. Color Pinup: Lloyd Honeyghan. Interview: Gil Clancy. Also: Meldrick Taylor, Jeff Fenech, Boxing's Champs.

Aug. 1989: Special 100th Issue. Color Pinup: Hagler vs. Hearns. Also: The *KO* Years, 50 most influential people, '80s ratings, best of *KO* Interview, year-by-year review, Sugar Ray Robinson.

Sept. 1989: "I Beat Up Tyson Before, I'll Do It Again," by Carl Williams. Color Pinup: Michael Nunn. Also: Chavez-Mayweather, Brian Mitchell, Marv Albert.

Feb. 1990: George Foreman Risks A Multimillion-Dollar Shot At Tyson. Color Pinup: Brian Mitchell. Interview: Riddick Bowe. Also: Simon Brown, Molina-Lopez, East vs. West.

June 1990: A Sugar-Free Future? Thomas Hearns Is Looking Up. Color Pinup: Glenn McCrory. Interview: Michael Moorer. Also: Matthew Hilton, Molina-Suarez, Foreman-Cooney, Camacho-Paz.

July 1990: *KO* Interview—Sugar Ray Leonard. Color Pinup: Jorge Paez. Also: Michael Nunn, Buster Douglas, Jibaro Perez, the Olympians.

Aug. 1990: Meldrick Taylor: Brilliance In Defeat. Color Pinup: Buster Douglas. Interview: Teddy Atlas. Also: Buddy McGirt, Dokes-Ruddock, Simon Brown.

Sept. 1990: *KO* Interview—Buster Douglas. Color Pinup: Macho Camacho. Also: Thomas Hearns, Nigel Benn, Greg Haugen, Boxing Hall of Fame.

Oct. 1990: Send In The Clown: Is Jorge Paez A Phenom Or A Fraud? Color Pinup: Paul Banke. Interview: Tony Lopez. Also: Chavez-Taylor II, Jesse Benavides.

Nov. 1990: The Comeback Of Mike Tyson: A Crooked Course Straight To The Top. Color Pinup: Tony Lopez. Interview: Don Dunphy. Also: Davis-Breland, Riddick Bowe, federal commission.

Dec. 1990: The Heart Of The Matter: Who Will Survive The Holyfield-Douglas War? Color Pinup: Terry Norris. Interview: Virgil Hill. Also: Michael Carbajal, Ruelas Brothers, best fighter poll.

Jan. 1991: Macho Ado About Nothing? Why Hector Camacho Wants To Be Believed. Color Pinup: Meldrick Taylor. Interview: Irving Rudd. Also: Sugar Ray Leonard, Orlando Canizales, Vinny Pazienza.

Feb. 1991: 10 Fighters To Fear: Boxing's Most Destructive Hitters. Color Pinup: Razor Ruddock. Interview: Ray Mercer. Also: Roberto Duran, Saoul Mamby, Mills Lane, Sugar Ray Robinson.

May 1991: Ruddock Eyes The Big Upset Of Tyson. Color Pinup: Luisito Espinosa. Interview: Jeff Fenech. Also: Virgil Hill, Pernell Whitaker, Alex Ramos, Simon Brown, Buddy McGirt.

June 1991: Exclusive *KO* Interview: Evander Holyfield. Color Pinup: Raul Perez. Also: Norris-Leonard, Charles Williams, champs of 1971 vs. 1991, J.C. Chavez.

July 1991: Riddick Bowe: Is He Destined To Be Heavyweight Champ? Color Pinup: Michael Carbajal. Interview: Buddy McGirt. Also: Bobby Czyz, Buster Douglas, Mark Breland.

Aug. 1991: Desert Storm II: Will The Tyson-Ruddock Rematch Be Different? Color Pinup: Loreto Garza. Interview: Michael Carbajal. Also: Brown-Blocker, Fenech-Nelson preview, Harold Brazier, Yuh-Carbajal.

Sept. 1991: Remember Me? I Won The Fight! What "The Real Deal" Still Has To Deal With. Color Pinup: Ray Mercer. Interview: Eddie Futch. Also: Larry Holmes, southpaw heavyweights, Toney-Nunn, Brown-Taylor.

Oct. 1991: Thomas Hearns Works Another Miracle! Now There Are More Hills Left To Climb. Color Pinup: Humberto Gonzalez. Interview: Mike McCallum. Also: Norris-Curry, Richard Steele, Troy Dorsey.

Dec. 1991: Tyson vs. Holyfield—The Experts Analyze The Elements That Will Decide The Fight. Color Pinup: Joey Gamache. Also: Michael Moorer, Pernell Whitaker, Greg Richardson, Robert Quiroga.

Jan. 1992: The Tyson-Holyfield Showdown: An Exclusive Forecast By George Foreman. Color Pinup: Myung Woo Yuh. Also: Fenech-Nelson, TV announcers, boxing's toughest men, Toney-McCallum.

March 1992: *KO* Interview Mike Tyson: An In-Depth, Toe-To-Toe Talk With Boxing's Biggest Star. Color Pinup: Michael Moorer. Also: Thomas Hearns, Tracy Patterson, Larry Holmes, best fighter poll.

May 1992: Division-By-Division Faceoffs: The Best Of '92 vs. The Best Of '67. Color Pinup: James Warring. Interview: Hector Camacho. Also: Tommy Morrison, Bert Cooper, Gianfranco Rosi.

June 1992: If Not Tyson Or Holyfield, Then Who? Bowe? Moorer? Ruddock? Lewis? Mercer? Color Pinup: James Toney. Interview: Shelly Finkel. Also: Scotty Olson, overrated and underrated fighters, Orlin Norris, Whitaker-Pineda.

July 1992: The Title Reign of Evander Holyfield: A Reason To Hide ... Or A Reason For Pride? Color Pinup: Buddy McGirt. Interview: Julian Jackson. Also: Kelley-Dorsey, Nelson-Fenech, Kennedy McKinney.

Aug. 1992: Bowe Knows The Big Fight: The Top Contender Analyzes Holmes-Holyfield. Color Pinup: Julian Jackson. Interview: Michael Spinks. Also: Thomas Hearns, Blue Horizon, fighting fear, Toney-Barkley, Greg Haugen.

Sept. 1992: Can Tommy Morrison Punch Out The Theory ... White Men Can't Fight. Color Pinup: Welcome Ncita. Interview: Ken Norton. Also: Reggie Johnson, Jimmy Paul, McGirt-Blocker, Ali-Shavers.

Oct. 1992: The Olympics: Golden Memories ... And Golden Futures? Color Pinup: Reggie Johnson. Interview: Bobby Czyz. Also: Genaro Hernandez, Terry Norris.

Nov. 1992: Foreman vs. Holmes: The Fight Evander Holyfield Should Have Prevented. Color Pinup: Iran Barkley. Interview: Joey Gamache. Also: Hector Camacho, Tracy Patterson, Rudy Zavala.

Dec. 1992: The Final Four: Ruddock vs. Lewis, Holyfield vs. Bowe. Color Pinup: Genaro Hernandez. Interview: Lennox Lewis. Also: Whitaker-Pineda, Bowe-Coetzer, Alex Stewart, Gamache-Lopez.

Jan. 1993: Holyfield vs. Bowe: Who Will Win And Why. Color Pinup: Al Cole. Interview: Vinny Pazienza. Also: James Toney, Terrence Alli, Maurice Blocker.

Feb. 1993: Strictly Business: George Foreman Fights For The Love Of It—The Money! Color Pinup: Vinny Pazienza. Interview: George Benton. Also: Tracy Spann, Oba Carr, greatest eras.

March 1993: Not Just Another English Muffin: Lennox Lewis Powers His Way Toward The Title. Color Pinup: Leeonzer Barber. Interview: Emanuel Steward. Also: Reggie Johnson, Lopez-Gamache, USA Network.

May 1993: Recapping The Future: Julio Cesar Chavez' Road To 100-0. Color Pinup: Terry Norris. Interview: Junior Jones. Also: Buddy McGirt, Riddick Bowe, Raul Marquez.

Dec. 1993: The *KO* Feud Rages On: "I Will Torture You!" Says Riddick Bowe To Lennox Lewis. Color Pinup: Kennedy McKinney. Also: Mississippi boxing, George Foreman, Yori Boy Campas , Carbajal-Kim, Morrison-Moorer.

June 1995: The Tug-Of-War Over Mike Tyson. Color Pinup: Wilfredo Vasquez. Interview: Oliver McCall. Also: Alejandro Gonzalez, Alexis Arguello, Kostya Tszyu.

Sept. 1996: Tyson vs. Seldon. Don't Bet On This Fight Until You've Read This Story! Color Pinup: Arturo Gatti. Interview: Butterbean. Also: Dana Rosenblatt, '92 Olympians, McGuigan-Pedroza.

Nov. 1996 (Special 88-Page Edition): The *KO* 100. Color Pinup: Terry Norris. Interview: Bob Arum. Also: Roy Jones, Roberto Duran, Joe Cortez.

Dec. 1996: Andrew Golota—Taking The Low Road to Stardom. Color Pinup: Mark Johnson. Interview: Rock Newman. Also: De La Hoya-Gonzalez, Chuck Bodak, bizarre endings, Chavez-Rosario.

Jan. 1997 (Special 88-Page Edition): Bowe-Golota II: Hatred And Vengeance ... It's A Beautiful Thing! Color Pinup: Johnny Tapia. Interview: Lou Duva. Also: Mouse Strauss, heavyweight rematches, Azumah Nelson.

Feb. 1997: *KO's* 1997 Wish List. Color Pinup: Ike Quartey. Interview: Naseem Hamed. Also: David Tua, Felix Trinidad, Adolpho Washington, Bobby Czyz.

Aug. 1997: Oscar Reaches ... But Can't Grasp The Stars. Color Pinup: Nate Miller. Interview: Hector Camacho. Also: Norris-Trinidad preview, Hall of Fame, Angel Manfredy.

Nov. 1997: Filling In The Missing Pieces: What "The Bite" Means To Boxing. Color Pinup: Christy Martin. Interview: Jim Lampley. Also: Vince Phillips, British prospects, Iran Barkley.

Holiday 1997 (Special 88-Page Edition): Holyfield-Moorer II: Can Evander Avenge His Ugliest Defeat? Color Pinup: Vince Phillips. Interview: Mills Lane. Also: Roy Jones, Baby Jake Matlala, Boxing 2000.

Jan. 1998: De La Hoya Humbles The Macho Man: "Oscar's The Best I've Ever Fought." Color Pinup: William Guthrie. Interview: Mark Johnson. Also: Johnny Tapia, Pinklon Thomas, defense.

Feb. 1998: Is Lennox Lewis The World's Best Heavyweight? Color Pinup: Charles Brewer. Interview: Marc Ratner. Also: Otis Grant, Arturo Gatti.

March 1998: Evander Holyfield: For The Real

Deal, Lewis Is No Big Deal. Color Pinup: Lou Del Valle. Interview: Lennox Lewis. Also: David Izon, Meldrick Taylor, rapid weight loss.

May 1998: Living Up To The Hype: Sometimes They Do ... Sometimes They Don't. Color Pinup: David Reid. Interview: Best Of ... (Part III). Also: Naseem Hamed, Marty Denkin, women's boxing.

June 1998: Lewis vs. Holyfield: Why The Fight Of The Year Isn't Going To Happen. Color Pinup: Evander Holyfield. Interview: Eddie Futch. Also: Hector Lizarraga, pain, Head-To-Head review.

Aug. 1998: Lewis Bombs Out Briggs: Would The WBC Champ Do This To Holyfield? Color Pinup: Keith Mullings. Interview: Shane Mosley. Also: Pernell Whitaker, Marco Antonio Barrera, Roberto Garcia.

Sept. 1998: Can Mike Tyson Make A Successful Comeback? Sugar Ray Leonard Has The Answer. Color Pinup: Michael Grant. Interview: Brad Jacobs. Also: Naseem Hamed, Wayne McCullough, Kirk Johnson.

Oct. 1998: The Ultimate Fantasy Card. Color Pinup: Oscar De La Hoya. Interview: Roy Jones. Also: Brendan Ingle, NYPD boxing, prospect blueprint.

Nov. 1998 The *KO* 100. Color Pinup: Reggie Johnson. Interview: Tim Austin. Also: Cesar Bazan, Spencer Oliver, Bobby Czyz.

Dec. 1998: Winning Fights Is Easier Than Winning Fans: Why Can't We Appreciate Roy Jones? Color Pinup: Tim Austin. Interview: Michael Grant. Also: Christy Martin, Ali Reform Act, one-hit wonders.

Holiday 1998: Toe-To-Toe With The Top 10: Where Does Tyson Fit In? Color Pinup: Shane Mosley. Inteview: Larry Hazzard. Also: Evander Holyfield, junior middleweights.

Jan. 1999 (Special 88-Page Edition): Oscar Eliminates Chavez ... Now The Real Fights Begin! Color Pinup: Yory Boy Campas. Interview: William Joppy. Also: Mark Johnson, U.S.A. vs. the world.

Feb. 1999: Holyfield & Lewis: Did They Hurt Themselves Before They Could Hurt Each Other? Color Pinup: Andrew Golota. Interview: Angel Manfredy. Also: Mismatches, Bobby Czyz on watching fights.

March 1999: Exposed! Is Hamed Really Hector Camacho In Disguise? Color Pinup: Mike Tyson. Interview: Joe Frazier. Also: Zab Judah, Vuyani Bungu, Frankie Randall.

May 1999: The Tyson Of Old ... Or Just An Old Tyson? Color Pinup: Luisito Espinosa. Interview: Fernando Vargas. Also: Antonio Diaz, Sumya Anani, standing eight-count.

June 1999: Will Tyson's Jail Time Be A Career Killer? Color Pinup: Johnny Tapia. Interview: Floyd Mayweather. Also: Roy Jones, 1999 Hall of Fame.

July 1999 (Special 88-Page Edition): De La Hoya vs. Trinidad: The Fight The Public Demands ... But Is It Going To Happen? Color Pinup: David Tua. Interview: Tommy Brooks. Also: Floyd Mayweather, Tony Marshall, best of the century.

Aug. 1999: Lewis vs. Holyfield II: Should We Expect Anything Different Next Time? Color Pinup: Fernando Vargas. Interview: David Reid. Also: Ibeabuchi-Byrd, Melissa Salamone.

Sept. 1999: Mayweather vs. Mosley: Who's The Future Of Boxing? Color Pinup: James Page. Interview: J Russell Peltz. Also: Evander Holyfield, Thomas Hearns, Angel Manfredy.

Oct. 1999 (Special 88-Page Edition): The *KO* 100. Color Pinup: Felix Trinidad. Interview: Jake LaMotta. Also: Tony Ayala, Erik Morales, Junior Jones.

Nov. 1999: De La Hoya vs. Trinidad: "It's Gonna Come Down To Who The Hell Wants It Most!" Color Pinup: David Reid. Interview: Arturo Gatti. Also: Roy Jones, Sugar Shane Mosley, Vassily Jirov.

Dec. 1999: David Reid & Fernando Vargas: Olympic Teammates On A Collision Course! Color Pinup: Zab Judah. Interview: Ike Ibeabuchi. Also: Vitali Klitschko, Antonio Tarver, Mike Tyson.

Holiday 1999 (Special 88-Page Edition): Lewis-Holyfield II: Why We Demand A Knockout! Color Pinup: Sharmba Mitchell. Interview: Paulie Ayala. Also: James Toney, James Page & Terronn Millett, decade review.

Jan. 2000: Fool's Gold? Trinidad May Have Tarnished Oscar's Image Forever! Color Pinup: Paulie Ayala. Interview: Tony Ayala Jr. Also: David Reid, Johnny Nelson.

Feb. 2000: Breakout 2000: Who's Going To Lead The Way In Y2K? Color Pinup: Roy Jones. Interview: Bob Arum. Also: Shane Mosley, Wise-Chavez, Iran Barkley.

March 2000: Mike Tyson: "I'm Tired Of This Crap!" So Are We, Mike! Color Pinup: Vernon Forrest. Interview: James Page. Also: Erik Morales & Naseem Hamed, Diego Corrales, women's boxing.

May 2000: Michael Grant vs. Lennox Lewis—25 Insiders Pick The Winner. Color Pinup: Paul Spadafora. Interview: Dan Goossen. Also: Floyd Mayweather, Johnny Tapia, southpaws.

June 2000: Lewis vs. Grant: Who Will Win ... And Why. Color Pinup: Vitali Klitschko. Interview: Sharmba Mitchell. Also: Shane Mosley, David Izon, 2000 Hall of Fame.

July 2000: Today's Fighters, Tomorrow's Hall Of Famers. Color Pinup: Keith Holmes. Interview: Shane Mosley. Also: Zab Judah, Morales-Barrera, Wayne Braithwaite.

Aug. 2000: Mosley Prepares For Oscar: "It Will Be Like The First Round Of Hagler-Hearns." Color Pinup: Steve Johnston. Interview: Chris Byrd. Also: Vargas-Quartey, Thomas Hearns, Felix Trinidad, common sense vs. cowardice.

Sept. 2000: Now Vargas Is Ready For Trinidad & De La Hoya. Color Pinup: Erik Morales. Interview: Chris Byrd. Also: Trinidad vs. all-time greats, Thomas Hearns, common sense vs. cowardice.

Oct. 2000 (Special 88-Page Edition): The *KO* 100. Color Pinup: Floyd Mayweather. Interview: Stevie Johnston. Also: Clifford Etienne, over-hyped heavyweights.

Nov. 2000: Sugar Rush! Mosley Achieves Superstardom At Oscar's Expense. Color Pinup: Lennox Lewis. Interview: Jay Larkin. Also: David Tua, Oleg Maskaev, Ben Tackie.

Dec. 2000: Mike Tyson vs. Lennox Lewis: 15 Insiders Pick The Winner. Color Pinup: Shane Mosley. Interview: Frank Maloney. Also: Oscar De La Hoya, Bronco McKart, our heroes' heroes.

[FULL-COLOR BEGINNING FEBRUARY 2001]

Feb. 2001: Fernando Vargas' Internal Battle: If He Can't Win It, He Can't Beat Trinidad. Interview: Evander Holyfield. Also: Derrick Gainer, Roy Jones, Naseem Hamed.

April 2001: Lewis Is Too Much For Tua ... But Could Tyson Do Any Better? Interview: Max Kellerman. Also: Floyd Mayweather, Wladimir Klitschko.

June 2001: Trinidad-Jones: Superfight Or Mismatch? Interview: Virgil Hill. Also: Mayweather-Corrales, Paul Ingle, Davey Hilton, Tyson's relationship with Vargas, Judah, and Mayweather.

Aug. 2001: Sugar Shane Mosley: Too Sweet For The Bad Boy Era? Interview: Richard Steele. Also: Evander Holyfield, Roy Jones, Jesus Chavez.

Oct. 2001: Tito Power—From Fans To Foes ... Everyone's Feeling It! Interview: Lou DiBella. Also: Hasim Rahman, Vargas-Rivera, F.I.S.T.

Dec. 2001: Laila Ali: The Fighter, The Sex Symbol ... The Future Of Women's Boxing? Interview: Laila Ali. Also: Oscar De La Hoya, Tim Austin, Manny Pacquiao, Hector Camacho Jr.

Feb. 2002: Bernard Hopkins: "I Am The American Dream. I Am The American Story." Interview: Wladimir Klitschko. Also: Omar Sheika, Vernon Forrest, Juan Lazcano.

April 2002: After Hitting Rock Bottom ... Lennox Is Back On The Path To Greatness. Interview: Duva Boxing. Also: Zab Judah, Mike Tyson, Thomas Tate.

June 2002: Tyson vs. Lewis: 10-Page Preview & Analysis. Interview: Jameel McCline. Also: *Ali* movie, Dorin vs. Balbi & Ward vs. Leija.

Aug. 2002: Still Crazy After All These Years: Should Mike Tyson Be Allowed To Fight? Interview: Kostya Tszyu. Also: Barrera-Morales II preview, Ayala-Adams, Ricky Hatton.

Oct. 2002: Vernon Forrest vs. Shane Mosley: Two Careers On The Line! Interview: Fernando Vargas. Also: Mayweather-Castillo, Hopkins vs. all-time greats, heavyweight scrap heap.

Dec. 2002: Wladimir Klitschko: Would He Be Too Much For Lennox? Interview: Joe Calzaghe. Also: Barrera-Morales II, Evander Holyfield, Freddie Roach.

Winter 2002: A Realistic Look At Tyson's Comeback: He Can't Make History, But He Can Make Millions. Interview: Micky Ward. Also: Antonio Tarver, Antwun Echols, Acelino Freitas.

March 2003: Oscar De La Hoya—The War That Rages Within. Interview: Klitschko brothers. Also: Kassim Ouma, Eric Morel, holiday gifts.

May 2003: Danger Zone! Will Roy Jones Be Doomed By His Heavyweight Ego? Interview: Buddy McGirt. Also: Gatti-Ward II, Floyd Mayweather, Erik Morales.

July 2003: Boxing's Biggest X-Factor: Can Hopkins Recover From His Self-Inflicted Wounds? Interview: Shane Mosley. Also: Kostya Tszyu, DaVarryl Williamson, 10 best defensive fighters.

Sept. 2003: Sugar Roy? How Jones Rates With The All-Time Greats. Interview: Chris Byrd. Also: Corrie Sanders, Jean-Marc Mormeck, Kermit Cintron.

Nov. 2003: De La Hoya-Mosley II: Will Three Years And Seven Pounds Make A Difference? Interview: James Toney. Also: Michael Watson, Erik Morales, Jones-Holyfield head-to-head.

Winter 2003: *KO* Interview Arturo Gatti: "Kostya Tszyu Needs Me More Than I Need Him." Also: Mayorga-Forrest II, Zab Judah, Corrales-Casamayor preview, Joe Calzaghe.

Feb. 2004: Shane Mosley: A Second Chance At Superstardom. Interview: Bernard Hopkins. Also: Laila Ali, Scott LeDoux, retirement.

April 2004: Human After All: Tarver Makes Jones Turn To Tyson. Interview: Emanuel Steward. Also: Sharmba Mitchell, Toney-McCline preview, trash-talking.

June 2004: What Could Tyson Do To Jones? Interview: Antonio Tarver. Also: Bernard Hopkins, Spinks-Mayorga.

Oct. 2004: Dr. Klitschko: The Perfect Band-Aid For The Heavyweight Division. Interview: Diego Corrales. Also: Monte Barrett, Cory Spinks, Vinny Paz & Sven Ottke.

Feb. 2005: Exclusive KO Interview—Manny Pacquiao. Also: Kostya Tszyu, Manning Galloway, quitting, perfect heavyweight.

June 2005: Heavyweight Champ Vitali Klitschko: He's A Lot Better Than You Think! Interview: John Ruiz & Norman Stone. Also: Glen Johnson, 2004 in review.

Oct. 2005: El Feroz With A Twist: Re-tooled Vargas Gets Defensive. Interview: Zab Judah. Also: Marco Antonio Barrera, Jean-Marc Mormeck, Julio Cesar Chavez Jr., *KO* at 25.

Feb. 2006: Can Hip Hop Revitalize Boxing? Interview: Erik Morales. Also: Zab Judah, Ricardo Mayorga, Arturo Gatti, Luis Collazo, Roman Karmazin.

Volume I, 2006 (KO Presents Boxing 2006): Middleweight Champ Jermain Taylor—Is The Best Yet To Come? Also: Ricky Hatton, Mosley-Vargas preview, Floyd Mayweather, Juan Manuel & Rafael Marquez, Joan Guzman, Steve Cunningham, Liston & Louis, 20 greatest Mexicans.

Volume 2, 2006 (KO Presents Boxing 2006): Pay-Per-View Showdown! Also: Cotto-Malignaggi preview, Hopkins vs. Tarver preview, Rahman-Toney, Jhonny Gonzalez, John Duddy, Castillo-Corrales III preview, Peter Manfredo, Jeff Lacy, Arthur Abraham, 20 greatest Brits.

❑ JUN/83	❑ AUG/88	❑ JUN/92	❑ HOL/98	❑ AUG/01
❑ AUG/83	❑ SEP/88	❑ JUL/92	❑ JAN/99	❑ OCT/01
❑ OCT/83	❑ OCT/88	❑ AUG/92	❑ FEB/99	❑ DEC/01
❑ JUL/84	❑ DEC/88	❑ SEP/92	❑ MAR/99	❑ FEB/02
❑ AUG/84	❑ JAN/89	❑ OCT/92	❑ MAY/99	❑ APR/02
❑ OCT/84	❑ AUG/89	❑ NOV/92	❑ JUN/99	❑ JUN/02
❑ NOV/84	❑ SEP/89	❑ DEC/92	❑ JUL/99	❑ AUG/02
❑ FEB/85	❑ FEB/90	❑ JAN/93	❑ AUG/99	❑ OCT/02
❑ MAR/85	❑ JUN/90	❑ FEB/93	❑ SEP/99	❑ DEC/02
❑ MAY/85	❑ JUL/90	❑ MAR/93	❑ OCT/99	❑ WIN/02
❑ JUL/85	❑ AUG/90	❑ MAY/93	❑ NOV/99	❑ MAR/03
❑ AUG/85	❑ SEP/90	❑ JUN/95	❑ DEC/99	❑ MAY/03
❑ OCT/85	❑ OCT/90	❑ SEP/96	❑ HOL/99	❑ JUL/03
❑ NOV/85	❑ NOV/90	❑ NOV/96	❑ JAN/00	❑ SEP/03
❑ DEC/85	❑ DEC/90	❑ DEC/96	❑ FEB/00	❑ NOV/03
❑ JAN/86	❑ JAN/91	❑ JAN/97	❑ MAR/00	❑ WIN/03
❑ FEB/86	❑ FEB/91	❑ AUG/97	❑ MAY/00	❑ FEB/04
❑ OCT/86	❑ MAY/91	❑ HOL/97	❑ JUN/00	❑ APR/04
❑ DEC/86	❑ JUN/91	❑ JAN/98	❑ JUL/00	❑ JUN/04
❑ FEB/87	❑ JUL/91	❑ FEB/98	❑ AUG/00	❑ OCT/04
❑ JUN/87	❑ AUG/91	❑ MAR/98	❑ SEP/00	❑ FEB/05
❑ OCT/87	❑ SEP/91	❑ MAY/98	❑ OCT/00	❑ JUN/05
❑ NOV/87	❑ OCT/91	❑ JUN/98	❑ NOV/00	❑ OCT/05
❑ DEC/87	❑ DEC/91	❑ AUG/98	❑ DEC/00	❑ FEB/06
❑ JAN/88	❑ JAN/92	❑ SEP/98	❑ FEB/01	❑ VOL 1/06
❑ FEB/88	❑ MAR/92	❑ NOV/98	❑ APR/01	❑ VOL 2/06
❑ JUL/88	❑ MAY/92	❑ DEC/98	❑ JUN/01	

KO MAGAZINE

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE AND MAIL TO:
LONDON PUBLISHING CO.
BOX 910
FT. WASHINGTON, PA 19034

ONLY $5 EACH

Please send me the back issues I've checked. I enclose $_____
as payment in full. PRINT YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS CLEARLY

Name _____

Address _____ **Apt.** _____

_____

City _____

State _____ **Zip** _____

For all orders except the U.S., you must add $1.50 for every back issue to be sent boat mail, and $3 for every back issue to be sent airmail. Int'l money order in U.S. funds only.
Please allow 6-8 weeks for delivery
In case of a sellout, indicate substitute choice: _____

7481/05-06

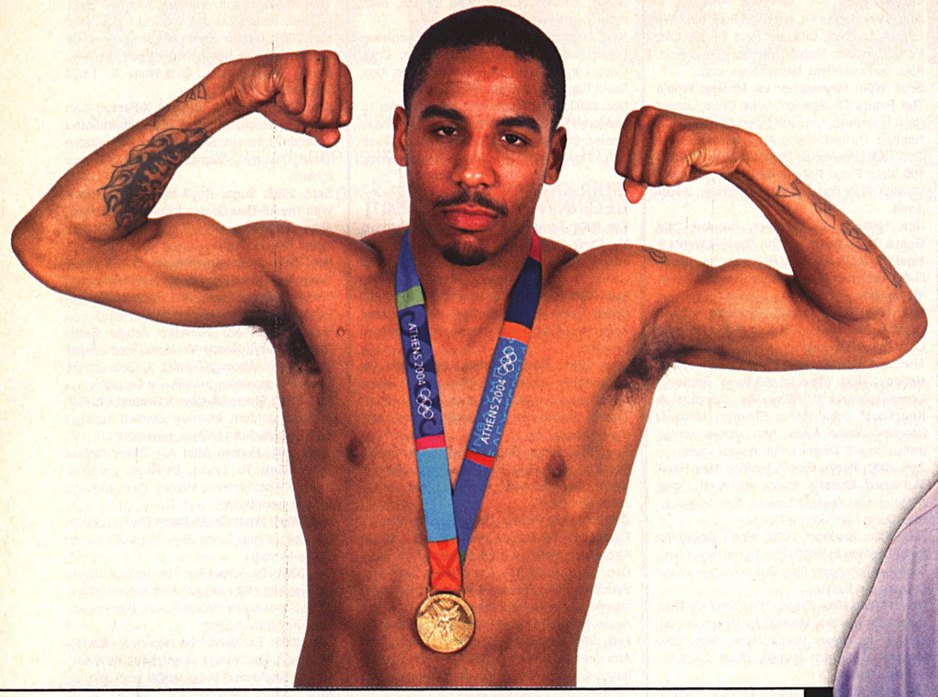


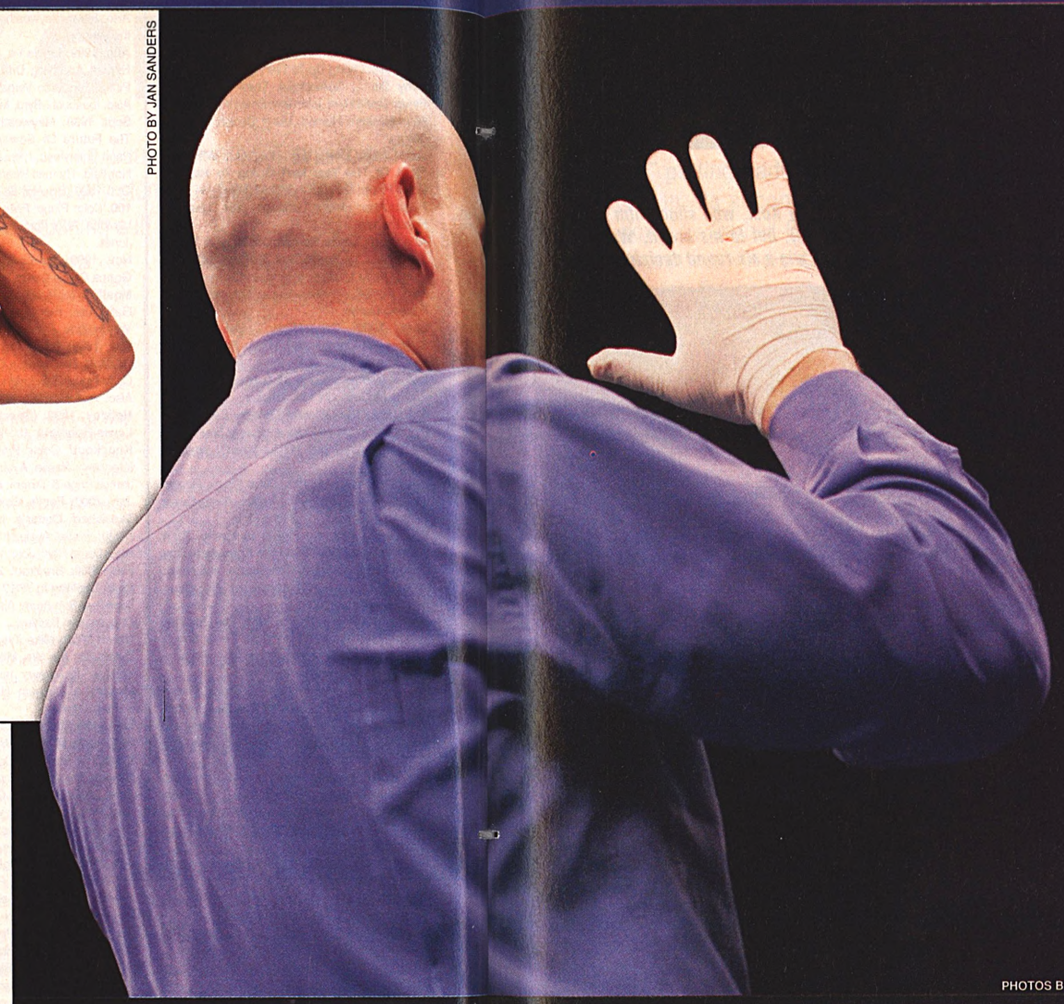
PHOTO BY JAN SANDERS

AN OH-FER FOR '04 OLYMPIANS?

The U.S. Fighters Are Struggling As Pros ... But At Least Time Is On Their Side

By Eric Raskin

The combined record of the United States Olympic team at the 2004 Games in Athens was a thoroughly mediocre 12-8. Take away Andre Ward's gold medal run, and the rest of them lost as many as they won. It was a disappointing showing for a once-proud amateur boxing program, with a mere two medals coming back to the States, the lowest total since 1956. There were only two positive things you could say about the boxing team in Athens: At least they did capture one gold medal, and at least they weren't as profound a



Andre Ward, the only U.S. boxer to win Olympic gold in 2004 (opposite page), is undefeated as a pro so far but has not always impressed. In his seventh pro fight, he was dropped by Darnell Boone (bottom) and had to take a mandatory eight-count (below) before boxing his way to a decision.

PHOTOS BY WILL HART HBO

PHOTOS BY JAN SANDERS

Ward also had trouble with Kenny Kost, who shook him up with a left hook early in their fight (left), but to his credit, Ward rallied back to bloody Kost (below) and win a six-round decision.

failure as the men's basketball team.

Still, they were a flop, and there wasn't even an Evander Holyfield DQ or a Roy Jones robbery to blame. These guys just weren't as good as their opponents. So as the U.S. Olympians turned pro beginning in late-2004, the fanfare was minimal, and the expectations were low.

And so far, those expectations have been met.

On the surface, a combined professional record of 55-1 (33) with 1 no-contest doesn't sound bad at all—especially when you compare it with that 12-8 mark from the Olympics. But it's worse than the numbers make it look. Most of these guys have been pros for about a year-and-a-half now, and none of them, as of press time, had reached double digits in wins. Only one of them had fought a scheduled 10-rounder. Only two of them had fought opponents that could be called borderline fringe contenders (and that may be a bit generous; a few more qualifying prefixes, like "pseudo" and "quasi," might actually be necessary). At this point in their pro careers, guys like Holyfield and Floyd Mayweather and Fernando Vargas were just a few months away from winning major titles. Perhaps it's unfair to compare any young fighter to a Holyfield or a Mayweather. But you'd like to see *somebody* from the Olympic team emerging as a pro to get excited about after 18 months. From the class of '04, there has been no emergence. Only emergencies.

Three emergencies, to be precise: There was Ward, the gold medalist, the

"sure thing," getting badly rocked by Kenny Kost in his second fight and knocked down by Darnell Boone in his seventh; there was Andre Dirrell, the bronze medalist, the one with the style supposedly perfectly suited for the pros, getting knocked down by Alfonso Rocha in his seventh fight; and there was Vicente Escobedo, the prized Golden Boy Promotions signing, the handsome kid with the "next De La Hoya" hype, losing an eight-round decision to Daniel Jimenez in his 10th fight.

There were nine members of the 2004 U.S. Olympic boxing team. Only seven of those nine have turned pro. Only six of those seven are still undefeated. Only four of those six have yet to taste the canvas. It's time to ask the question: Are these Olympians going to make any impact whatsoever as pros?

"We're in 2006, I mean, you've got to give them a little time," offered Teddy Atlas, who provided color analysis for NBC in Athens and has also announced several of the Olympians' pro fights on ESPN2. "Normally, it takes about five years for a pro to develop to his full extent. With Olympians, it's usually a little bit of an exception. Usually, they can expedite it, they can do it in possibly three years because they have such vast amateur experience. But you're still only one or two years into their pro careers right now. So the jury's not out.

"But you have to wonder a little, because, on the whole, in the Olympics, the team was disappointing. None of these kids had one thing that stood out. My feeling was a lot of them, like Dirrell, they needed to mature. I thought there was a certain immaturity. They were young."

That they were. The average age of the U.S. Olympians in Athens was 21. The average age of the seven who have turned pro is now 23. None of them is older than 25—not even the heavyweight (Devin Vargas) or super heavyweight (Jason Estrada), classes that in recent Olympiads have seen the U.S. send older competitors such as Lawrence Clay-Bey and Michael Bennett. So these guys obviously have plenty of time to make progress. The problem is that, so far, they don't seem to be making much.

The first fighter you have to talk about is Ward, 9-0 (5). He was the star of the Olympic team, beating four older, more experienced European fighters en route to the gold—plus he was fighting above his best weight, a middleweight outslicking and outsmarting light heavyweights. If anyone on this team turned pro with something resembling a hype machine churning, it was Ward, whose first fight found its way onto HBO. Unfortunately, his second fight almost found its way into the loss column. Unknown Minnesotan Kost scored with a left hook that short-circuited Ward for several anxious moments, and suspicions of willowy whiskers were reinforced nine months later when Boone dropped him heavily in the fourth round of an off-TV six-rounder.

But it's more than just a chin problem with Ward; it's the fact that he's getting caught with these shots against mediocre opposition in the first place. It's the sense that he hasn't improved at all since turning pro. He's being matched very carefully. He holds his hands as though he thinks he's a prime Roy Jones, but as surely as Dan Quayle was no John F. Kennedy, Andre Ward is no Roy Jones. He is talented, for sure. He has good speed, he has a certain amount of ring intelligence, he shows poise, and he's fighting at the right weight, 160 pounds. But his jabbing, accuracy-based style that worked wonders in the amateurs hasn't been refined to work in the pro game. Something has to change—perhaps a new trainer needs to join the mix—because if it doesn't before the opposition gets stepped up, then that gold medal will be the last piece of hardware Ward wins.

The same goes for Dirrell and his bronze. Like Ward, Dirrell, a middleweight in Athens and a super middleweight now, has faced extremely soft opposition and doesn't seem to have advanced at all since turning pro in January '05. Despite being knocked down in his last fight, Dirrell, 7-0 (4), doesn't necessarily have as shaky a chin as Ward does. He got blasted with a perfect right hand, went down, and seemed to clear his head quickly. But he never should have eaten a shot that flush from an opponent like Rocha. It happened because Dirrell got overconfident, let his hands dangle down by his knees, and left himself vulnerable.

"With Dirrell in Athens, it was unhar-

PHOTO BY MIKE GREENHILL

Olympian Andre Dirrell shows off his bronze medal prior to a pro bout in Maryland. Although he's unbeaten in the paid ranks, Dirrell has not progressed very rapidly and has created little fan interest.

nessed ability," Atlas said. "I thought some of the fundamentals were wrong, dropping your hands, getting away with things that he could get away with in fights that were just four two-minute rounds, that you can't necessarily bargain on getting away with in longer fights with longer rounds. It's always the same problem, because these kids, they get spoiled. The guys who are in charge of them, they're more worried about losing a fighter than they are sometimes pushing the fighter in the direction that he needs to be pushed to improve. Talent isn't enough. It's like having all the great bricks in the world to build a building—those bricks don't mean anything if they don't have mortar, if they don't have cement around them. And cement in these kids' careers is the kind of character they have. That's what holds the bricks together. Speed and all those physical attributes, that's only going to get you so far when some kind of test and pressure starts to show itself. Dirrell needed to get a definitive idea of what his ring identity should be. One minute he'd be pressing you because the opponent's so meager, and the next minute he'd be fighting like Ali. He needed some consistency."

Lightweight Escobedo, 9-1 (9), clearly needed consistency too. At the Olympics, he looked fantastic in his opening-round fight, a third-round points stoppage of Colombia's Jose David Mosquera, and then he looked lost in his second-round fight, a wide 36-18 loss to Rovshan Huseynov of Azerbaijan. As a pro, he was moved at a reasonable pace, fighting 10 times in 14 months and stepping up the competition in his last two fights. Unfortunately, he wasn't ready—or maybe just plain isn't good enough—for the step up. Against Jesus Perez, an experienced trialhorse, Escobedo was surprisingly tentative (though he did eventually stop Perez in six). Three months later, Escobedo dipped his toes in deeper waters against the 12-1-1 (7) Jimenez, and found himself in need of a life vest. He dropped an eight-round decision, becoming the first member of the Olympic team to lose his "O".

The only Olympian who's been moved faster than Escobedo (and to be honest, Escobedo hasn't been moved *that* fast) is heavyweight Estrada, 6-0 (1) with 1 no-contest. The 250-pounder from Providence, Rhode Island, was the ultimate disappointment of the Athens Games, losing in his second fight to a Cuban fighter he'd beaten a year earlier at the Pan Am Games and then saying afterward that he didn't care, that he played it safe and didn't want to get hit, that turning pro and making money was all that mattered to him. At least that disconcerting statement turned out to have some truth to it, as Estrada has shown more determination and desire since entering the paid ranks.

In just his sixth fight, Estrada took on Yanqui Diaz, of the famous first-round knockout of Juan Carlos Gomez. Even though Estrada had to settle for a disappointing first-round no-contest, he was doing well in the couple of minutes the fight lasted, and he exhibited a willingness to take on advanced competition. In his very next fight, this past May, Estrada jumped directly from a six-rounder to a 10-rounder and took on Robert Wiggins, a respected journeyman with two wins over unbeaten fighters on his record and close losses to the likes of Monte Barrett and DaVarryl Williamson. Estrada scored a 10-round shut-

PHOTO BY GREGG MARINANE

Referee Ricky Gonzalez raises Jason Estrada's arm following his 10-round decision over Robert Wiggins in May 2006. Although America's super heavyweight flamed out early in Athens, Estrada is advancing quickly as a pro and is fighting gradually improving opposition.

FOREIGN PHENOMS

The brightest pro prospects don't have to be Americans—other countries are allowed to have Olympians worth watching too. Here are seven from the '04 Games who may go farther than any of the Americans:

Andre Berto: The Miami-born Berto was left off the U.S. team and chose to represent his parents' homeland, Haiti, instead. The powerful welterweight lost controversially, by two points, in the opening round of the Olympics. He's had better luck so far in the pros; under the guidance of DiBella Entertainment, the 22-year-old is off to a 12-0 (10) start including wins on Showtime and ESPN2.

PHOTO BY ED MULHOLLAND/GETTY IMAGES

Knockout artist Berto fought for Haitian Olympic team

Willy Blain: An Olympian in both '00 and '04, French junior welterweight Blain was the gold medal favorite in Athens, but he ended up losing in the quarterfinals. As a pro fighting out of Hamburg, Germany, he's 13-0 (2) and showing tremendous skill, if not an overabundance of power.

Amir Khan: Some are calling the lightweight silver medalist from England the brightest prospect in the sport. Fighting as a junior welterweight so far in the pros, the 19-year-old is already a major attraction in Britain. The first four wins on his 7-0 (5) resume came against fairly hapless opposition, but since then, he's trounced fighters with records of 10-1, 12-3, and 24-10-1.

Andy Lee: It's not what 6'2" southpaw middleweight Lee has done in the pro ring so far that has people excited; it's the fact that he trains at the Kronk Gym with Emanuel Steward and reportedly gave Jermain Taylor difficult workouts in preparation for his fight with Winky Wright. The 21-year-old from Ireland went 1-1 in Athens and is 2-0 (1) since turning pro in March '06.

PHOTO BY DEAN MOUHTAROPOULOS/GETTY IMAGES

Novice pro Khan is already a star in the U.K.

Juan Manuel Lopez: Despite losing in the first round as a bantamweight in the Olympics, the 22-year-old Puerto Rican featherweight has been gaining rave reviews as a pro, especially with his spectacular one-punch knockout on the Manny Pacquiao-Erik Morales II undercard. He also has a second-round kayo of veteran Luis Bolano on his 11-0 (10) record and should have no problem getting fights and exposure with Top Rank behind him.

Abner Mares: Like Lopez, Mares lost in the opening round of the bantamweight tournament in Athens, but as a junior feather in the pros, the Mexican is 8-0 (5) and has gained exposure fighting on both Jermain Taylor-Bernard Hopkins undercards. He's just 20 years old, so Golden Boy seems to be taking its time with him, but the talent is evident.

Alexander Povetkin: Though somewhat undersized for a modern heavyweight at 6'2", 220, the 26-year-old Russian Povetkin has all the credentials you could want: He won the super heavyweight gold in Athens, he's 8-0 (6) in the pros, and he's already beaten solid opposition in Friday Ahunanya and Livin Castillo. Plus, he beat somebody named Muhammed Ali in his pro debut. Not a bad name to have on your resume.

—ER

out, 100-90 on all cards, to announce that, just seven fights into his pro career, he's ready to start making a move in the wide-open heavyweight division.

"I think that a kid like Estrada, who did disappoint in the Olympics, you can get fooled and think you have to be careful with this guy, but his handlers went the other way with him, and I applaud them for that," Atlas said. "He's got to be pushed. The worst thing you could do with a kid like that is go and baby him. This is a kid who was the number-one heavyweight in the United States, who had tons of amateur experience. Now, let's demand more of him. Let's put him in with better guys he should be able to handle. It's responsible. They're not being irresponsible. I think the guys who are still putting these fighters in with soft opponents after two or three fights, they're irresponsible. These kids are not forced to improve. Nothing is demanded of them. I wish more people would take the right route, like they did with Estrada. That's the best thing they could have done."

Estrada is the exception, though. Vargas, who lost in the quarterfinals in Athens as a heavyweight (200 pounds or less), has zoomed to a 9-0 (4) record in the pros and has also zoomed to about 225 pounds. But of his nine opponents, only two have had winning records. His most recent foe, Dione Craig, was just 2-4 (1)—and one of those four losses was against Vargas, as they'd already fought seven months earlier. As a 24-year-old still getting used to his new, bulkier body, it makes sense to be a little bit cautious with Vargas at this point. But at the same time, it makes it hard for fans to get excited about him.

Rock Allen, 7-0 (5), who didn't turn pro until August '05, is on a similar track, hav-

THE 2006 The RING ALMANAC

OUR 11TH EDITION!

ON SALE NOW! Or order by mail!

☑ **YES!** I would like to order my copy of the ***2006 Ring Almanac.*** I have enclosed $7 in check or money order (postage and handling included) as payment in full.

SEND TO:

London Publishing Co., P.O. Box 910, Ft. Washington, PA 19034

Name_____

Address_____ Apt.____

City_____State____Zip_____

For orders outside the U.S., you must add $1.50 for every issue to be sent surface mail, or $3 for every issue to be sent airmail. Int'l money order in U.S. funds only. Please allow 6-8 weeks for delivery. 7090

THE RING BOXING ALMANAC

Limited quantities of the *Ring Boxing Almanacs* are still available. Send a check or money order for $7 each (postage included) to: London Publishing Co., P.O. Box 910, Ft. Washington, PA 19034.

Please check issue(s) desired; I have enclosed $7 each as payment in full:

- ☐ 1997 Ring Boxing Almanac
- ☐ 2001 Ring Boxing Almanac
- ☐ 2002 Ring Boxing Almanac
- ☐ 2003 Ring Boxing Almanac
- ☐ 2004 Ring Boxing Almanac

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

_____ APT._____

CITY _____

STATE_____ ZIP _____

In all countries outside the U.S., please add $3 for every issue to be sent airmail or $1.50 for every issue to be sent surface mail. International money orders in U.S. funds only. Please allow 6-8 weeks for delivery.

6550/03-04

PHOTO BY ANDY LYONS/GETTY IMAGES

Heavyweight Devin Vargas fires a right at fellow American Chazz Witherspoon during the Olympic Box-offs. Vargas prevailed and earned a spot on the U.S. team, but failed to medal. He's unbeaten as a pro, but only two of his nine opponents had winning records.

ing also fought only two opponents with winning records. The junior welterweight from Philadelphia was a major disappointment at the Olympics, amateurishly lunging his way to a first-round defeat. Through his relationship with Bernard Hopkins, Allen is hooked up with Golden Boy Promotions and should have no problem getting noticed (especially with that bodybuilder's physique of his), but as a fighter, he hasn't looked that much better in the pros than he did in the Olympics. Two fights ago, he snuck by a nondescript opponent named Arthur Brambila on a six-round majority decision in his own hometown. A lot of great fighters have their early struggles—Allen's promoter, Oscar De La Hoya, famously got knocked down early on by two run-of-the-mill opponents—but this was an unimpressive performance just the same.

And then there's Vanes Martirosyan, a welterweight in Athens who lost in the second round and is now 9-0 (6) as a professional junior middleweight. The California-based Armenian has looked good so far under the tutelage of Freddie Roach and the management of Shelly Finkel, arguably winning every single pro round he's fought. The opposition hasn't been much, but still, maybe he'll turn out to be one of those guys who was forgettable at the Games but is on his way to doing memorable things as a pro. The question is, as just an 18-year-old in '04 and a 20-year-old now, would he have been better served with a run at the '08 Olympics? Atlas recommended that path to Martirosyan after his Olympic journey ended, but the youngster had his own plans.

But there was another fighter at the Olympics to whom Atlas recommended continued amateur seasoning, and that was 17-year-old light flyweight Rau'Shee Warren. Warren, who lost a one-sided fight to China's Shiming Zou in the opening round of the Olympics, has taken Atlas' advice and is currently the number-one ranked flyweight in USA Boxing, with an eye on returning to the Olympics in '08.

Warren isn't the only member of the '04 U.S. team who hasn't yet made his pro debut. Flyweight Ron Siler, 26 (the elder statesman of the team), who won his first Olympic match and lost his second, also can still claim amateur status. According to Don King Productions Vice President of Boxing Operations Bob Goodman, DKP signed Siler last year and planned on several occasions to turn him pro, but "there was always some problem or other, or he couldn't be reached." The deal unraveled, and Siler has yet to enter the professional ranks.

PHOTO BY WILL HART/HBO

Philadelphia's Rock Allen clubs Calvin Pitts with a right en route to a second-round kayo in Las Vegas. Allen, who is promoted by Golden Boy, is still unbeaten in the pros but has struggled at times against mediocre opposition.

So the 2004 Olympic team isn't exactly taking the professional boxing world by storm. The positive spin is that the 2000 team had hardly progressed at all as of mid-2002, and several of them—including Jermain Taylor, Rocky Juarez, Calvin Brock—are now doing pretty well for themselves. Maybe Dirrell will be another Taylor. Maybe Martirosyan will be another Juarez. Maybe Estrada will be another Brock. Maybe Warren will win gold in '08 and become a superstar.

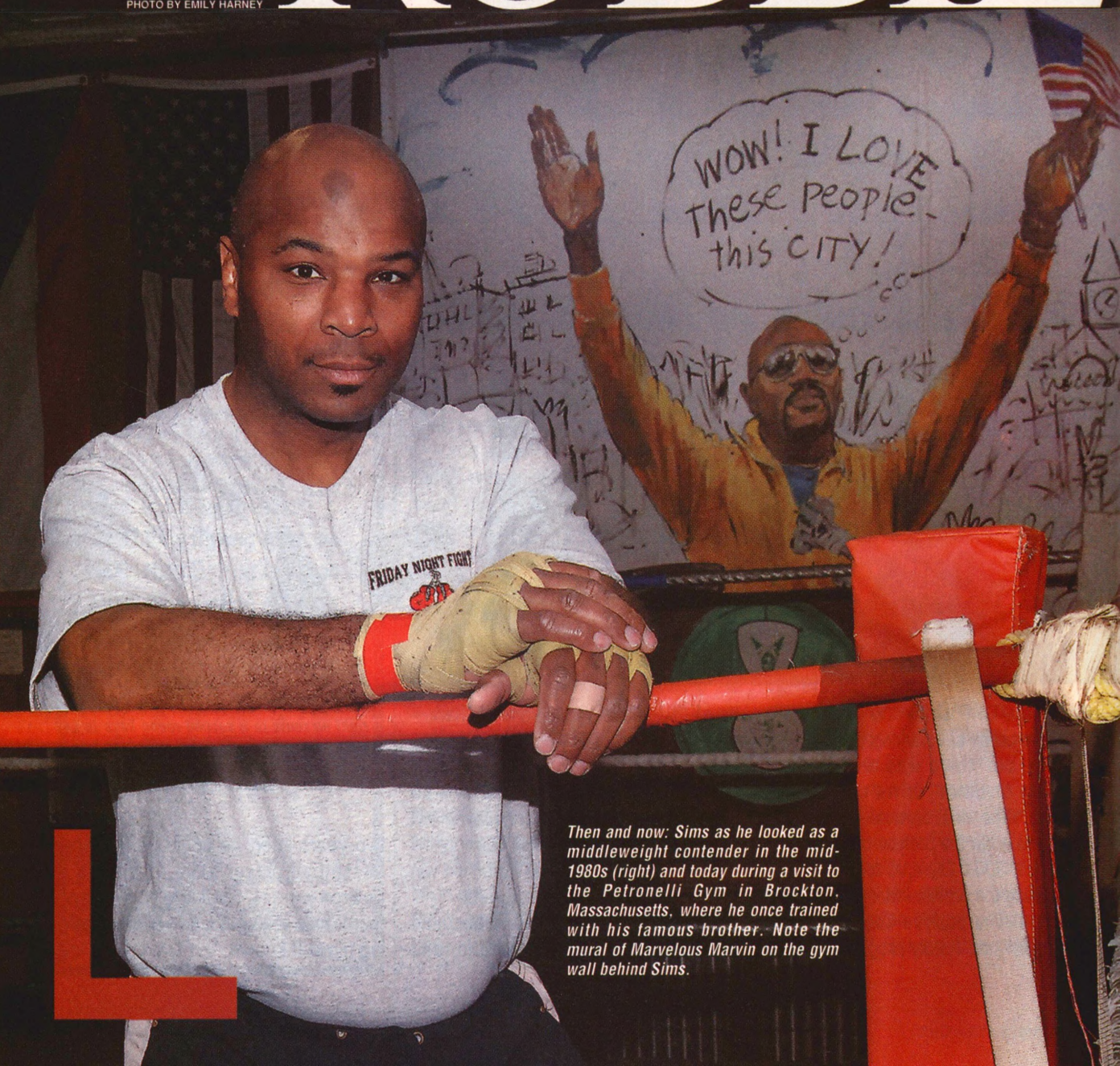
But LeBron James averaged just 5.4 points per game in Athens, and two years later, he could be the best basketball player alive. If there's a LeBron James from the '04 boxing team, he's taking his sweet time making himself known. ■

The RING

UPDATE:

HAGLER GATEKEEPER ROBBIE

PHOTO BY EMILY HARNEY



Then and now: Sims as he looked as a middleweight contender in the mid-1980s (right) and today during a visit to the Petronelli Gym in Brockton, Massachusetts, where he once trained with his famous brother. Note the mural of Marvelous Marvin on the gym wall behind Sims.

SIMS

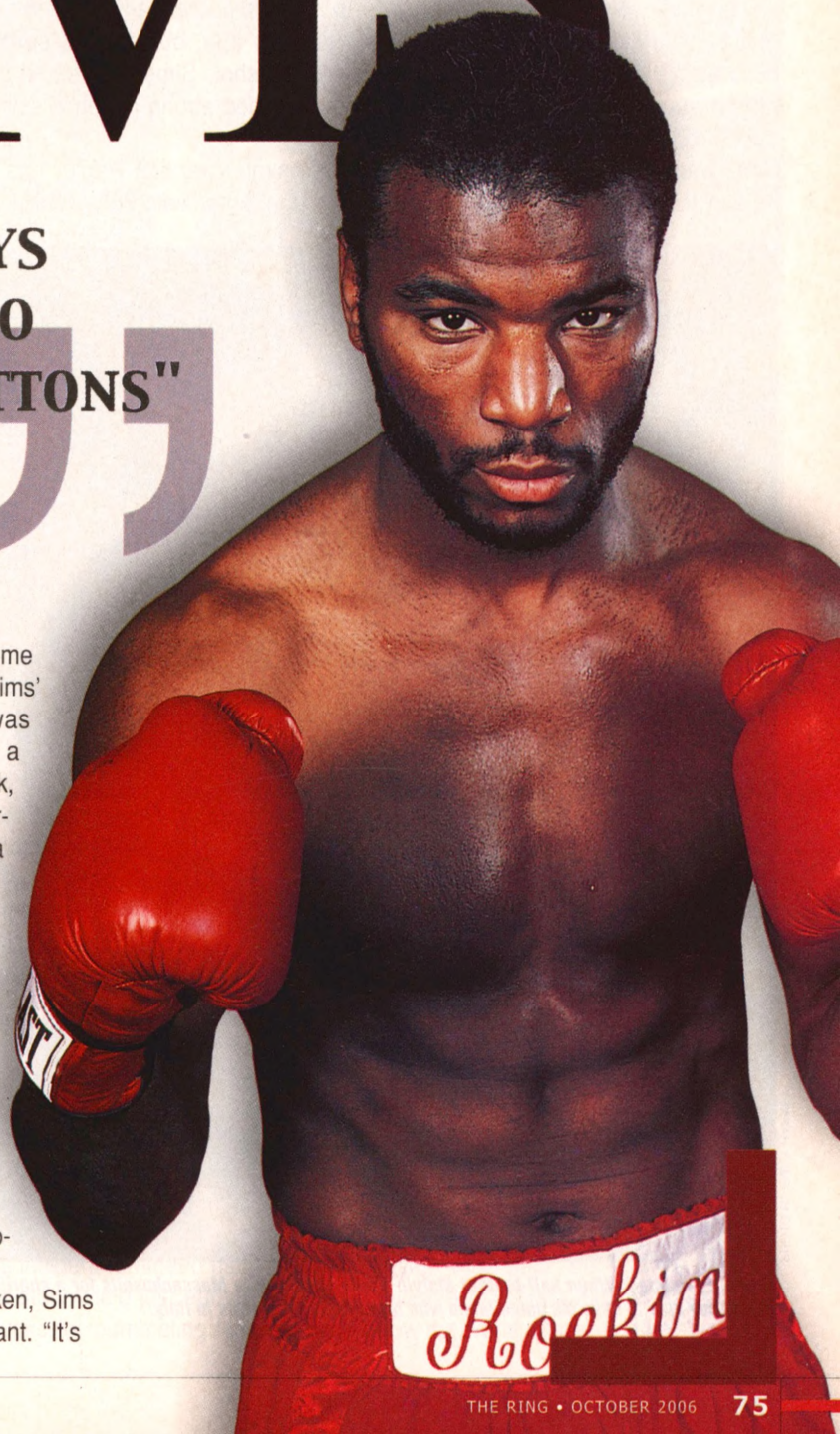
"Satan Always Knew How To Push My Buttons"

By Don Stradley

"I wondered if you could take a picture of me with my brother," said Robbie Sims. Sims' brother, Marvelous Marvin Hagler, was making a rare stateside appearance for a Boston charity benefit. Looking sharp and sleek, Hagler was in a corner of the pressroom, surrounded by boxing bigwigs. If Sims wanted a picture, he might have to wait.

He picked at his food and surveyed the room. An elderly pug at the next table kept bellowing incoherently, while beat writers laughed too loudly at their own jokes. Even Hagler raised his voice occasionally, yelling in a throaty, faux-Italian accent. Vinny Paz was there too. He once beat Sims by decision. Now Paz was talking rapidly into his cell phone, trying to make arrangements for some late night fun. Sims seemed detached, like a tired man watching coworkers get silly at an office party.

When the time came to have his picture taken, Sims rose quickly and nearly upturned a potted plant. "It's



been a long night," he said quietly. "Too many voices in here. Too many spirits." He waved his right hand in the air, as if warding off ghosts.

***

They sounded like a comic book duo: Marvelous Marvin and "Rockin' Robbie," a pair of caped crusaders cleaning out the middleweight class. While Hagler ruled the division for seven years and became the first middleweight in history to earn a million-dollar purse, Sims patrolled the outskirts of the division like a man on guard duty. He had the same rugged build as his brother, the same switch-hitting stance, and the same attack dog fierceness. The only knock on Sims was his inconsistency; early on he lost to Bobby Czyz, Clint Jackson, and Mike Tinley (twice). "Boxing is funny that way," said Sims' trainer, Goody Petronelli. With some fighters, "You just hope the right guy shows up."

In Sims' case, the right guy showed up often enough. He kayoed Iran Barkley in one of the best fights of the 1980s, he outpointed the up-and-coming Doug DeWitt, and the highly regarded John Collins never fought again after Sims bombed him out in a single round.

Then there was Roberto Duran, who fought Sims one summer evening at Caesars Palace. Duran was past his prime and had already failed in a bid at Hagler's title, but he was seeking a second shot. Sims took some lumps, but finished strong to win a split decision.

"Anyone wanting Hagler has to go through Sims," said Bob Arum.

There was brief talk that Sims would next fight Thomas Hearns. The bout was scrapped because, among other reasons, it would have been too emotional for Hagler, who'd beaten Hearns the previous year in an intense, highly personal fight.

"Marv was always emotional at my fights, so me fighting Tommy Hearns would have been too much for him," said Sims.

Instead of fighting Hearns, Sims returned to Las Vegas eight months later and struggled to a draw with an inexperienced clubfighter named Tim Williams. "I was weak in the knees for that one," said Sims, referring to the boxing axiom that fighters shouldn't be around women prior to a fight. "And no one told me Williams could hit so hard." Still, Hagler was supportive of Sims, often saying, "After I retire,

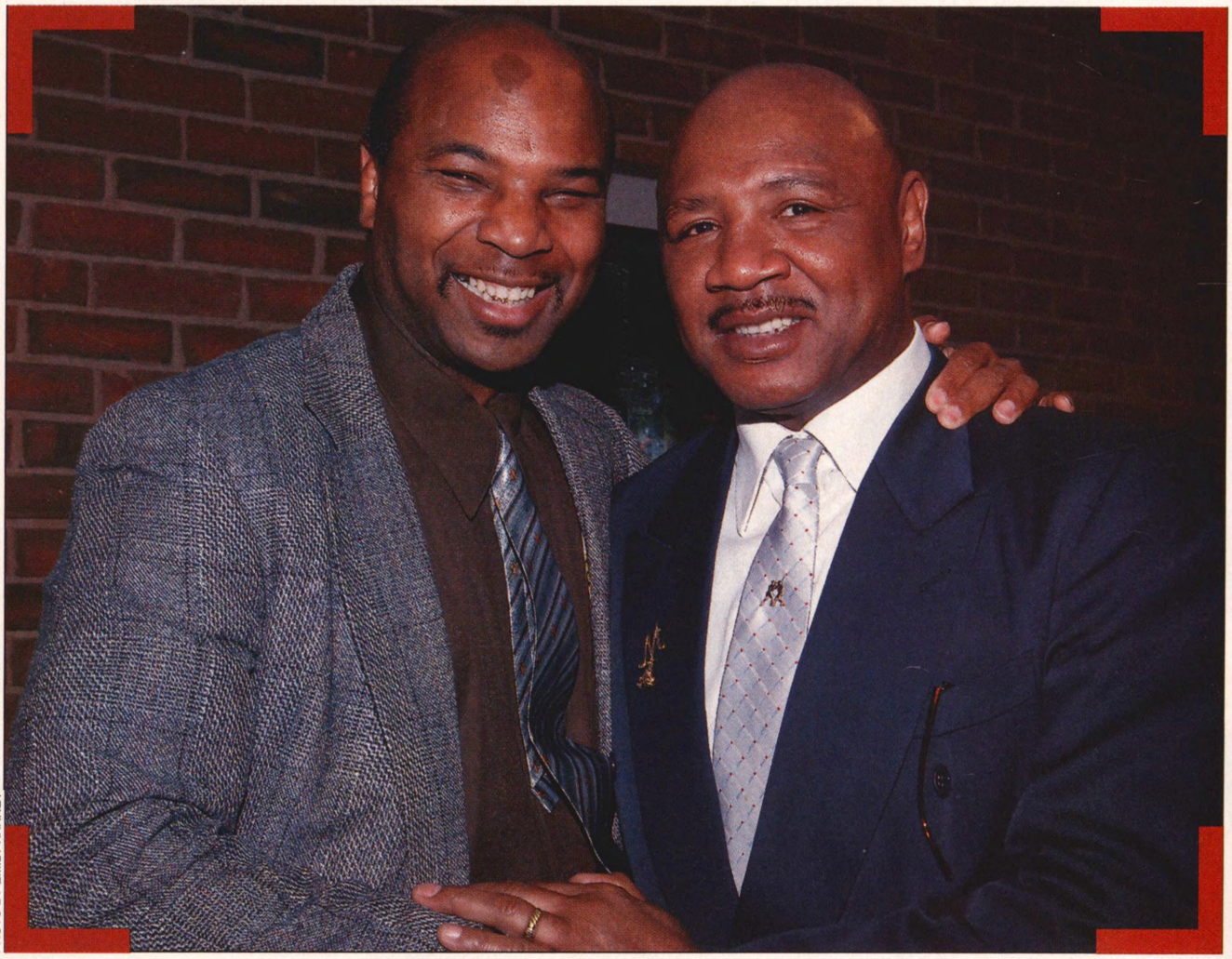


PHOTO BY EMILY HARNEY

Brotherly reunion: When half-brother Marvin Hagler returned to Massachusetts for a charity function earlier this year, Sims had to wait his turn like everybody else to have his photo taken with him. Hagler now lives in Italy.

Sims comes over the top of Doug DeWitt's left with a right to the jaw in their August 1985 bout in Atlantic City. Sims, who won a unanimous 10-round decision, was coming into his own as a legitimate middleweight contender at the time.

Robbie can be champion and keep the title in the family." But no one took Hagler seriously. Not even Sims. He knew his job was to be his brother's gatekeeper.

Sims began learning his role when he walked into the Petronelli Gym at age nine. Hagler was a 15-year-old amateur, and Sims, his half-brother by way of the same mother, wanted to be a boxer too. "He was a skinny little kid who kept getting in the way," said Petronelli. "We'd say, 'get out of here,' because we were working with fighters. But he'd hang around and hit the bag. He had quick hands, and he was determined, just like Marvin. He had a great career. He got involved with drugs a little bit, but I didn't know about it; he kept it a secret. After the drugs, he got the religion in a big way. He talks about the Lord all the time now. And that's fine."

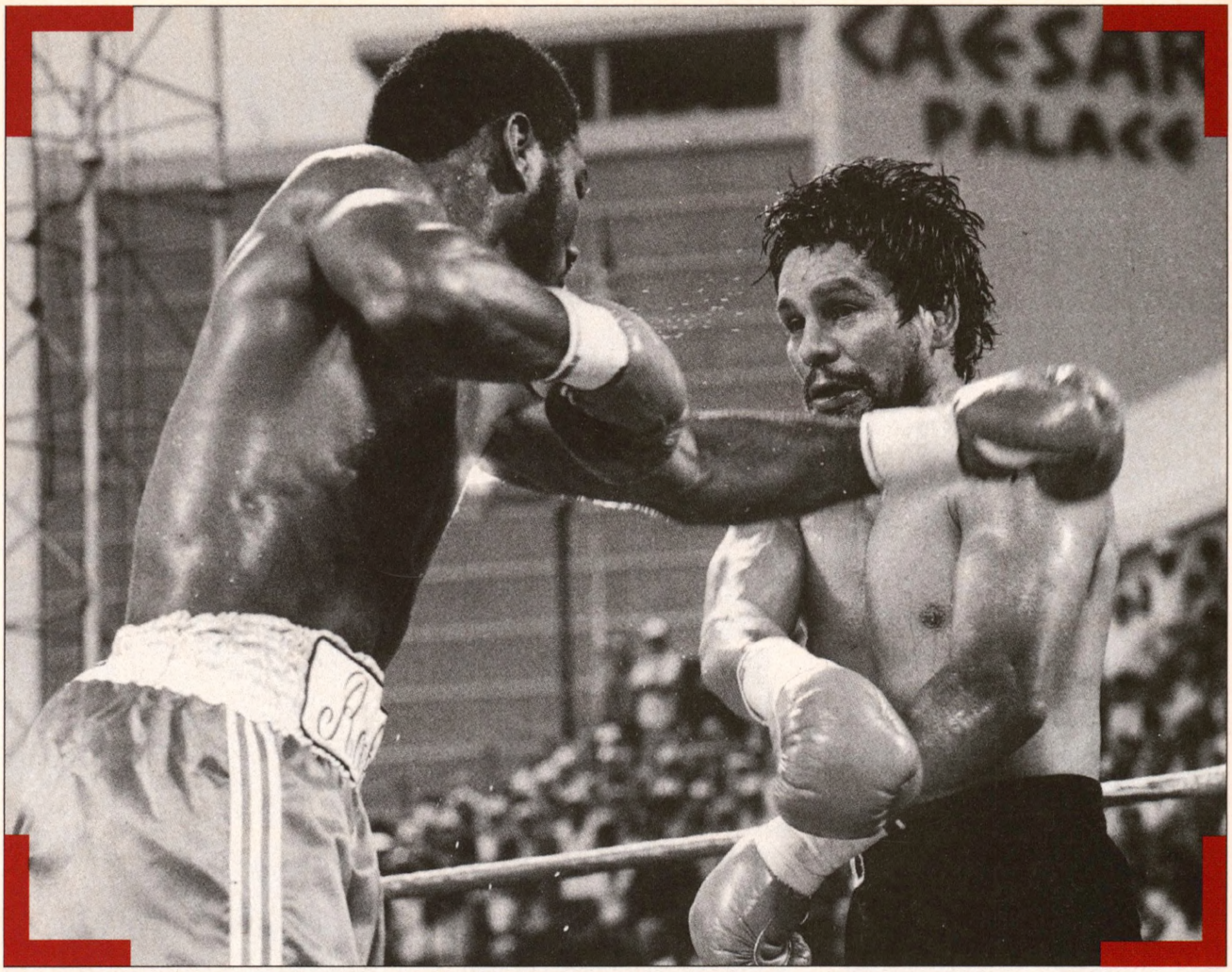
***

A woman answered the phone when we called looking for Robbie Sims. "Robbie can't come to the phone, he's eating dinner," the woman said. "Give us your number, and he'll call you back. Unless this is long distance; there's a block on the phone. I can't have people talking long distance on my phone."

The incident reminded us of a funny Hagler story. He'd just earned five million bucks for pummeling Hearns, and when he called his wife, Bertha, after the fight, he said, "I gotta keep this call short because it's long distance." The family, it seems, has a thing about phone bills.

"Call back tomorrow around this time," the woman said. "Robbie doesn't usually eat this late, but I'm in bed with a cold, and he's been doing things for me around the house."

The woman, it turns out, was Sims' mother, Mae Hagler, the towering figure in Hagler folklore who moved the family from Newark, New Jersey, to Brockton, Massachusetts. She couldn't promise her son would talk. "He's very quiet," Mae said. But if Sims seemed evasive, it's because he wasn't sure how the world perceived him.



Sims fires a left hook at Roberto Duran during the highest-profile fight of Robbie's career. Sims won a 10-round split decision in a rugged encounter, ruining Duran's chances of a rematch with Hagler. Oddly enough, Sims' career began to sour after beating Duran.

"People look at me and wonder why I don't have money," said the 46-year-old Sims. "They think I should have more status. I don't want people to look down on me. I'm not a specimen at the bottom of a hole."

Sims wants people to know he's doing well. He has worked as a guard on a Brinks truck, a counselor for the Department of Youth Services, and most recently as a driver for a coffee delivery firm. He has a beautiful 14-year-old daughter, Briawna, and a spiritual side that's holding firm after many years of struggle.

"God has always been part of my life," said Sims, who attends twice weekly church services. "But Satan always knew how to push my buttons."

The trouble began when Sims' brother retired from boxing. "Marv was captain of the ship. I loved watching him throw combinations, the same combinations he taught me when I was in grammar school," said Sims. "I was never as good as Marv. He was like an artist. I just boxed for fun. When he stopped, I wanted to retire too. It was boring without him. I got lonely."

Sims' life took a dark turn in 1988. He'd lost a decision to WBA middleweight titlist Sumbu Kalambay and was drifting into a nighttime world of drugs and parties. The turning point came when a Boston narcotics squad raided a house Sims happened to be visiting. An overzealous cop punched Sims in the face, put a gun to his head, and threw him into the back of a police wagon. "He said, 'I don't care who you are, just shut up.' So, I shut up. It was like one false move was gonna put me away." Sims started praying, and, within 15 minutes, he was released with no charges against him. He took that as a sign from above.

Shortly after that, at a private rehab clinic in Arizona, Sims dropped to his knees and asked for guidance. "Praying did something, it made me feel like my whole spirit was lifted up to heaven."

He returned to Brockton, got married, and tried to get on with his life. But there was pressure from promoters to resume his boxing career. Being from a famous boxing city and having Hagler for a brother made Sims marketable, but his heart was no longer in the business. Maybe it was Satan, he wondered, reaching up to mess with him some more.

The second leg of his career was difficult. He lost a violent rematch to DeWitt and was kayoed by Nigel Benn. He took fights on short notice, even as his marriage crumbled. He ended up fighting clubfighters in Randolph, Massachusetts. Sims, 38-10-2 (26), retired in 1996.

"Truthfully, I was done after the Duran fight," said Sims. "Where do you go after fighting that kind of warrior? What else is there to do?"

Part of Sims' problem was that he never craved attention. "Marv talked about recognition all the time," Sims said. "Even when he had it, he wanted more of it. When I was a kid, I wore my Golden Gloves jacket because I wanted people to know I could fight, but I didn't need the recognition Marv had. He couldn't even go to the bathroom without people bothering him."

The other problem was women. "I'd be good all during training, and then Satan would tempt me." Sims still likes the ladies, but he's "trying to be a good man."

"I've tried to make amends with the city of Brockton," he said. "I want them to know God has taken me out of the darkness and into the light. I'm not Rockin' Robbie anymore. I'm Rob or Robert. It's an ongoing process. I understand that. But I want to get off my ass. Movie stars and athletes go through much worse than what I've done, and they get to do things and make their own decisions. I want to do things. I want to be challenged."

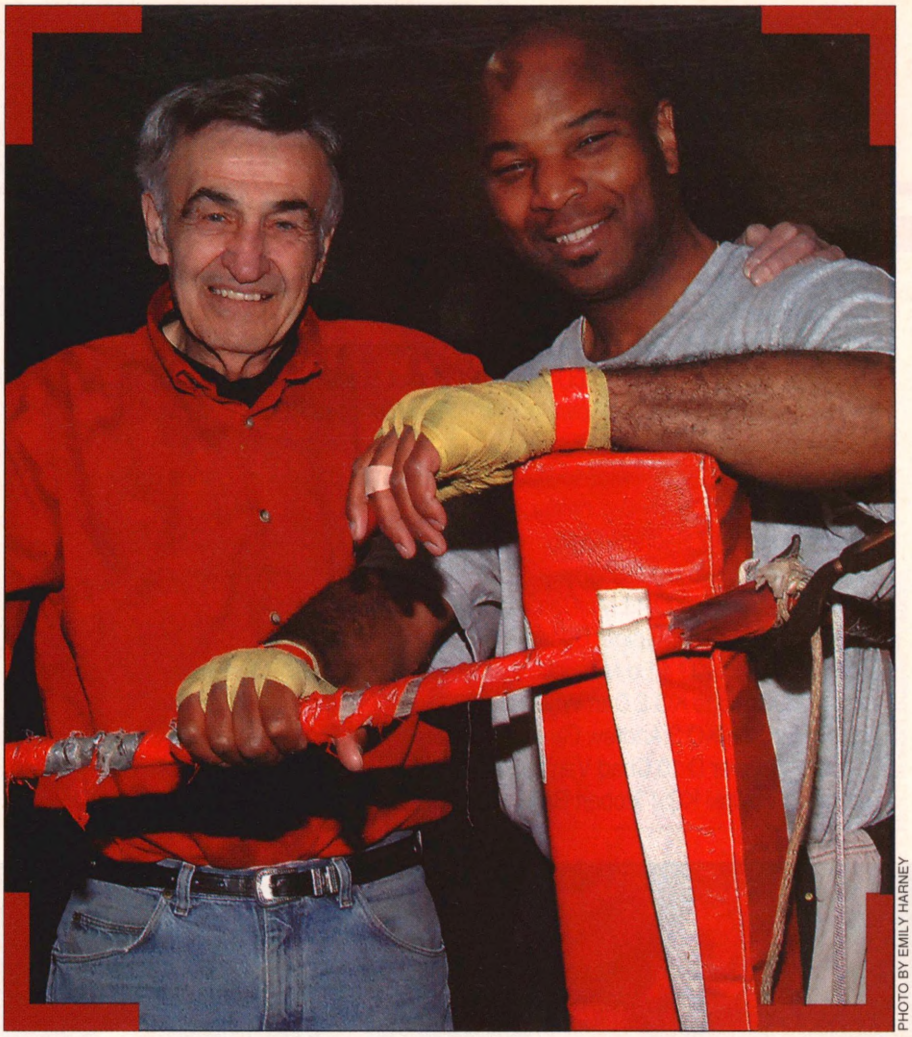


PHOTO BY EMILY HARNEY

Sims poses with Goody Petronelli in April 2006. Even though he still works out, the 46-year-old Sims has no intention of making a comeback, though he does occasionally give tips to younger boxers.

Sims wants to be an entrepreneur. In 1998, he and Goody Petronelli's son, Tony, opened a gym; it was short-lived. Other business ventures have fallen through since then. Sims' biggest hurdle is getting backers to trust him. "They can't separate me from who I used to be, so they don't take me seriously. People don't realize how much I've changed. I used to always try to hit a homerun with the bases loaded to show people. Now I'm patient. I let God have His way."

Fortunately, Sims' frustration is balanced by his sense that life is good, whether he succeeds in business or not. "It's a miracle I'm even here," he said. "I was supposed to be on the plane with the U.S. National team that crashed on the way to Poland. Goody talked me out of it because he wouldn't be able to work my corner. I owe Goody my life. Every day I think about that."

Sims maintains a warm friendship with Goody and Tony and makes regular visits to the Petronelli Gym. One drizzly afternoon last April he suited up for a quick workout. As he moved heavily around the ring, he shouted, "This is not a comeback!" After three rounds of shadowboxing he leaned over the top rope and laughed, "That was 15, right?" He no longer follows boxing—his mother doesn't have cable-TV—but he occasionally offers tips to young fighters. "The most important thing I tell them," he said, "is to get out at the right time."

Sims hopes to put together a DVD to present to youngsters at the DYS. "There's no better teacher than God. He's a mystery," Sims said. "But I know He's real. If He's there for me, He'll be there for you too."

He resumed shadowboxing. His hands were still quick.

"Look at Robbie," said Petronelli. "He still has a little class."

But is he happy?

"Absolutely," said Petronelli. "Robbie is a great guy."

Petronelli has heard the suggestion that having a famous brother might bring some difficulties, but he laughs at the idea. "There was never any jealousy or competitiveness. They were very close," Petronelli said. "Robbie was proud of Marvin. Let me show you something."

Petronelli pointed to a framed picture near his office. He remained silent, letting the image speak for itself. The photo featured a very young Hagler being presented with a large trophy. Sims, age 14 or so, is next to Hagler. His smile is luminous, as if he shared in the prize. ■

Don Stradley is a freelance writer from Massachusetts and a regular contributor to this magazine.

[Summary]

Heavyweights

Nikolay Valuev KO 3 Owen Beck
(*Retains WBA Title*)
Fres Oquendo W 10 Javier Mora
Oliver McCall KO 3 Wallace McDaniel
Shannon Briggs KO 3 Chris Koval
J.D. Chapman W 10 Edward Gutierrez
Kevin Johnson W 10 Daniel Bispo
Brian Minto W 10 Danny Batchelder
Chris Arreola KO 7 Sedreck Fields
Jason Gavern KO 5 Derek Berry
Alexander Povetkin KO 4 Livin Castillo
Andrey Fedosov KO 4 Tolgat Dosanov
Eddie Chambers KO 4 Ed Mahone
Vincent Maddalone KO 2 Dan Whetzel
Audley Harrison KO 3 Andrew Greeley
Chauncy Welliver D 10 Chad Van Sickle
Tommy Zbikowski KO 1 Robert Bell

Cruiserweights

Mohamed Azzaoui W 12 Sean Sullivan
Marco Huck W 10 Nuri Seferi
Derrick Harmon KO 9 Vincent Harris
Junior MacDonald KO 5 Julien Perriaux
Tito Mendoza KO 2
Washington Grueso Jr.
William Guthrie KO 1 Carlos Bates

Light Heavyweights

Bernard Hopkins W 12 Antonio Tarver
(*Wins World Title*)
Paul Briggs W Disq. 5
Jose Alberto Clavero
Chad Dawson W 12 Eric Harding
Stipe Drews W 12 Kai Kurzawa
Curtis Stevens KO 6 Eric Howard
Daniel Edouard W 8 David Toribio

Super Middleweights

Carl Froch KO 11 Brian Magee
Anthony Dirrell KO 1
Juan Carlos Ramos
Jozsef Nagy W 8 Mukadi Manda
Andre Dirrell W 6 Alfonso Rocha

Middleweights

Jermain Taylor D 12 Ronald Wright
(Retains World Title)
Dante Craig KO 10 Carl Daniels
John Duddy KO 7 Alfredo Cuevas
Yuri Foreman W 10 Jesus Valverde
Amin Asikainen KO 8
Sebastian Sylvester

Junior Middleweights

Sergiy Dzinziruk W 12
Sebastian Andres Lujan

PHOTO BY NICK LAHAM/GETTY IMAGES

Heavyweight Zbikowski slams a right into Bell

PHOTO BY NICK LAHAM/GETTY IMAGES

Junior lightweight Pacquiao rips Kelley's body

Mario Veit W 12 Jurgen Brahmer
Ishe Smith W 10 Patrick Thompson
Andrey Tsurkan KO 8
Hector Camacho Jr.
Peter Kariuki Ngateri KO 4 Paz Viejo
Luis Sanchez KO 1 Ray Gonzalez
Harry Yorgey W 8 Ronnie Warrior Jr.

Welterweights

Oscar Diaz W 12 Chris Smith
Paul Williams KO 10 Walter Matthysse
Kevin Anderson KO 10 Young Muttley
Oktay Urkal W 8 Andrei Rimer
Victor Puiu KO 4 Maurice Brantley
Hector Munoz KO 4 Francisco Gil
William Gonzalez KO 5 Wilmer Gomez
Julio Cesar Chavez Jr. KO 2
Aaron Drake
Antonio Mesquita KO 1 Anthony Ivy
Rock Allen KO 1 Ken Humpreys

Junior Welterweights

Miguel Cotto W 12 Paul Malignaggi
Lovemore N'dou KO 1
Decha Bankluaygym
Herman Ngoudjo W 12 John Brown
Miguel Callist W 10 Juan Mosquera
Demetrius Hopkins KO 9
Michael Warrick
Oisin Fagan KO 7 Jeff Thomas
Sebastien Demers KO 7 Sherwin Davis
Sergey Sorokin KO 5 Joel Mayo
Delvin Rodriguez KO 3 Luis Hernandez
Teppei Isomichi W 8 Indonesian Darsim
Michael Torres W 8 Eli Addison

Lightweights

Anthony Peterson W 12
Adan Hernandez
David Diaz W 12 Cristian Favela
Isaac Hlatshwayo W 8 Jeremy Yelton
Koba Gogoladze W 10 Tyrone Harris
Lee McAllister KO 8 Stuart Green
Ali Funeka KO 2 Dexter Delada
Kunpei Shibano KO 1 Hirotsugu Saito
Nick Casal D 8 Dean White

Junior Lightweights

Cassius Baloyi KO 11 Manuel Medina
(*Wins Vacant IBF Title*)
Bobby Pacquiao KO 4 Kevin Kelley
Yuki Yoshizawa W 10 Moses Seran
Takahiro Aoh W 10 Francisco Dianzo
Jorge Linares W 10 Pedro Navarrete

Featherweights

Akifumi Shimoda KO 7
Gerardo Martinez

Junior Featherweights

Isreal Vazquez KO 4 Ivan Hernandez
(*Retains World Title*)
Daniel Ponce De Leon KO 2
Gerson Guerrero
Bernard Dunne KO 8 David Martinez
Katsuyuki Takayoshi W 8
Yoshihiro Shibanuma

Bantamweights

Jhonny Gonzalez W 12
Fernando Montiel
Martin Power KO 8 Isaac Ward
Daiki Kameda KO 5 Yopie Benu
Yoshinori Naito W 8 Hyobu Nakagama

Junior Bantamweights

Z Gorres W 10 Pedro Rincon Miranda

Flyweights

Vic Darchinyan KO 8 Luis Maldonado
(*Retains IBF title*)

Junior Flyweights

Nelson Dieppa W 10 Erik Ramirez
Jean Piero Perez W 10 Ronald Ramos
Munetsugu Kayo KO 2
Fahkanong Singdongthai
Junichiro Kaneda KO 8 Yoddoi Sithsoei

Strawweights

Omar Soto W 10 Juan Keb Baas

Anthony Mundine W 12 Danny Green

Sydney, Australia: In most parts of the world, a bout between two middling super middleweight contenders wouldn't be a huge deal, but in Australia, when the contenders are hated rivals Mundine and Green, it's the superfight to top all superfights. More than 30,000 fans filled Aussie Stadium for the long-awaited showdown (plus the ones who stayed home set Australian pay-TV records), and Mundine thrilled his supporters by outslicking the heavier-handed Green over 12 reasonably entertaining rounds.

Green, 167¼, Sydney, started well over the first three rounds, cutting off the ring and doing decent scoring with his two-fisted attacks. But Mundine, 166½, Sydney, was keeping the rounds close with his quick jab and his movement, and by the fourth, the Aboriginal fighter had taken control, drawing blood from Green's nose and sending showers of sweat flying off of "The Green Machine's" head with several of his clean punches. Green, 33, tried over the next several rounds to dig in with a determined body attack, but it failed to slow Mundine down, and by the ninth, the action started to become one-sided. Mundine was just too fast and too evasive.

When the 12 rounds ended, Mundine, 31, yelled to the crowd, "Who's the man?" The judges all knew the answer. Michael Lee (Korea) had it close at 116-113, but Prinit Prayadsab (Thailand) and Derek Milham (Australia) saw Mundine a more convincing winner, at 118-111 and 118-112, respectively.

"Anthony just fought a better fight tonight and beat me fair and square," a humbled Green, 21-3 (19), conceded. "I have no excuses at all. I trained unbelievable, and my preparation was great, so how can I have excuses other than that Anthony was the better man tonight? He showed great skill and great speed."

"Danny put up a good performance. He came ready, he came prepared, but I was the better man tonight," said Mundine, 26-3 (20). Mundine is now the mandatory contender to WBA 168-pound titlist Mikkel Kessler, a fighter who beat Mundine by decision in Sydney last June.

The referee was Terry O'Connor (England).
Promoter: **Tony Mundine Sr.**
(5-17-06)

Jhonny Gonzalez W 12 Fernando Montiel

Carson, California: Sometimes bouts that look good on paper don't end up looking so good once the bell rings, and Gonzalez vs. Montiel was just such a bout. The two WBO titlists (Montiel has the junior bantamweight title, Gonzalez the bantamweight strap, which was at stake in this contest) put on a true stinker, as Gonzalez patiently and ineffectively stalked the smaller and quicker Montiel for the better part of 12 rounds, except for brief instances when the two fought spirited exchanges during the last 10 seconds of a handful of rounds (the fifth, sixth, eighth, and ninth, specifically).

For most of the fight, the 24-year-old Gonzalez, 117¾, Mexico City, cautiously moved forward, occasionally throwing single left hooks to the body and rights to the head, while the 27-year-old Montiel, 117, Los Mochis, Mexico, circled around on his toes and selectively picked his opportunities to jump in and try to land some punches.

The fight drew boos from the Home Depot Center crowd as early as the second round, and by the end, it seemed like more than half of the announced crowd of 2,952 people had ventured to the professional soccer game that was taking place on the same grounds. It was that kind of fight, and it was so uneventful that even the judges had a hard time figuring out who won it. At the end of the day, Gonzalez retained the bantam belt by split decision, with Chuck Hassett (USA) and Nelson Vasquez (Puerto Rico) scoring it 118-111 and 116-112, respectively, in his favor, while Marty Denkin (USA) came in with a score of 115-113 for Montiel. THE RING scored it 116-112 for Gonzalez.

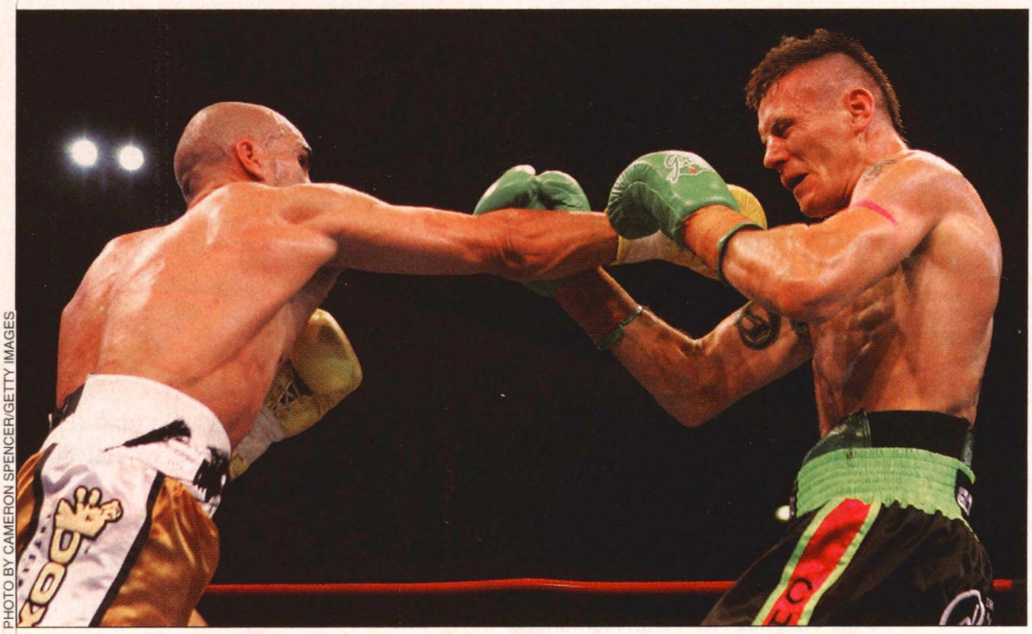


PHOTO BY CAMERON SPENCER/GETTY IMAGES

Mundine fires a right at Green during big fight Down Under

PHOTO BY BOBYN BECK/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Gonzalez drills Montiel with a right en route to decision victory

"I want to unify with [Rafael] Marquez," Gonzalez, 33-4 (28), said afterward. "I'm not interested in any other fight at this weight except for Marquez."

Even though his performance was far from spectacular, Gonzalez did defeat a very skilled opponent and has earned the right to fight Marquez in a bout that would probably make people forget that this one ever took place. Meanwhile, Montiel, 32-2-1 (24), indicated that he intends to return to the 115-pound division.

Television: **HBO**

Promoter: **Golden Boy Promotions**

(5-27-06)

Brent Matteo Alderson

Paul Williams KO 10 Walter Matthysse

Carson, California: This was a clash between two undefeated welterweights who were trying to establish themselves as legitimate threats to the division's elite, and as soon as the first bell rang, Williams, 145½, Augusta, Georgia, and Matthysse, 146½, Santa Fe, Argentina, went right at each other. The southpaw Williams fired right jabs and straight lefts, and Matthysse winged wild rights and lefts, and the action never let up. But Matthysse's chances of winning eventually did, as Williams took firm control in round five and ground his opponent down from there en route to a 10th-round stoppage at the Home Depot Center.

[The Ring Fighter of the Month]

Presented by EVERLAST BOXING EQUIPMENT EST.1910 BRONX, NEW YORK

Jorge Barrios

Okay, so Janos Nagy isn't exactly getting his own wing in Canastota. He probably isn't even getting another shot on American television. But he was undefeated, and he was supposed to have a very good chance at winning against Jorge Barrios on HBO. Of course, it's hard to win when you don't make it out of the first minute of the fight.

It took just 49 seconds for Barrios to deliver and for Nagy to be de-livered. On only his second landed punch of the fight, according to CompuBox, "La Hiena" slammed home a left to the liver, and Nagy had your classic "I think I'm okay ... oh wait, I'm not okay at all" bodypunch reaction. A 10-count later, the fight was over.

It was the third impressive U.S. TV performance in a row for Barrios, the quirky Argentine who gave Acelino Freitas hell in 2003 and handed Mike Anchondo his first defeat in '05. It doesn't earn him his own wing in Canastota either. But in a span of a few weeks in which nobody else stepped up with a performance for the ages, it's good enough to make Barrios the Fighter of the Month. Not a bad reward for 49 seconds of work.

PHOTO BY ROBERT LABERGE/GETTY IMAGES

Through the early going, Matthysse knocked the 6'1" Williams off-balance on a number of occasions with his no-holds-barred attack. But Matthysse's intense offensive seemed like it wore him out quickly. He had to take a lot of punishment in order to reach the much bigger Williams, 24, and he appeared visibly tired after a couple of rounds. In the third, it seemed as though Williams had weathered the storm and adapted to the style of his ultra-aggressive opponent. He began to stick and move, pick his shots, and smother Matthysse's crude offense by pushing the 27-year-old Argentinean strong man's head down and holding him on the inside in a manner similar to how Muhammad Ali would neutralize Joe Frazier.

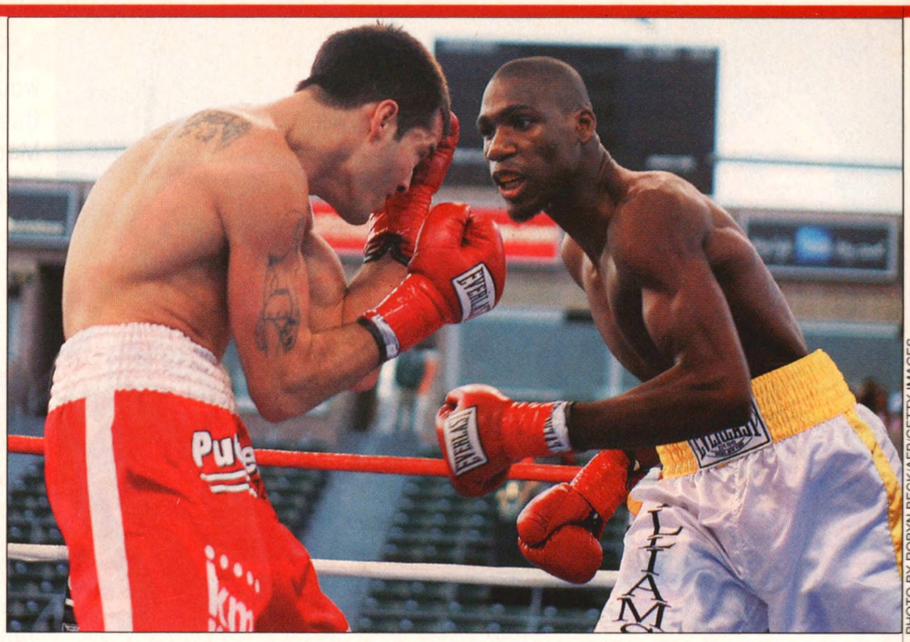


PHOTO BY ROBYN BECK/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Williams (right) moves in on Matthysse during battle of undefeated welterweights

In the fifth round, Williams had his opponent hurt against the ropes, which gave him the confidence to stalk him in the sixth. Over the course of the next few rounds, "The Punisher" began to alternate between boxing and slugging—getting the better of both. In the 10th, Williams shook Matthysse with a vicious right hook and then, sensing the end was near, followed Matthysse, 25-1 (24), into a neutral corner, where he landed four consecutive rights hooks to the body. Williams then drove home a right hook to the head that prompted referee Jack Reiss (USA) to step in and stop the fight at 1:56 of the round.

Right after the bout, Williams called out Antonio Margarito, exclaiming, "I'm 30-0 with 22 knockouts. I mean, what else is there for me to do? I want to own all the world title belts at 147 pounds. It's time for me to get that shot. I'm not trying to be cocky or anything, but it's my time to shine and they say nobody wants to fight this guy because he intimidates them, but I want the chance to fight him!"

Television: **HBO**
Promoters: **Golden Boy Promotions, Goossen-Tutor Promotions**
(5-27-06)
Brent Matteo Alderson

Daniel Ponce-DeLeon KO 2 Gerson Guerrero

Carson, California: Ponce-DeLeon had a lot to be angry about prior to his fight with Guerrero in a non-televised bout at the Home Depot Center on the undercard of Gonzalez-Montiel. First off, he had been slated to fight Alejandro Barrera, the undefeated cousin of Marco Antonio Barrera, on the undercard of Oscar De La Hoya-Ricardo Mayorga before the bout was moved back three weeks and placed on this show. And when it was initially switched to the new date, Ponce-DeLeon's first defense of the WBO 122-pound title was going to be televised as the co-feature, until HBO decided to replace it with the Williams-Matthysse welterweight clash. To make matters worse, the weekend of the fight, Golden Boy Promotions informed the media that Barrera had visa problems and wasn't going to be able to arrive in time for the fight. So the promoters quickly shuffled the card around and lined up the 28-year-old Guerrero of Mexico City, who is a fringe contender at 115 pounds.

It didn't take long for Ponce-DeLeon 121½, Cuauhtemoc, Mexico, to take his aggression out on the smaller Guerrero, 119¼. He landed numerous powerpunches to the head and body and hurt Guerrero toward the end of the first round with two left crosses. Despite being visibly shaken, Guerrero managed to survive.

In the second, the southpaw Ponce-DeLeon came out to finish the job and dropped Guerrero with a crude right hook that actually looked more like a chopping right hand. Guerrero got up from the knockdown and landed some decent right hands to the face of Ponce-DeLeon before the Mexican powerpuncher finished him off with a series of right hooks and left crosses, punctuated by a couple of uppercuts that finally put Guerrero down for the second time. Referee Pat Russell (USA) started to count, but immediately waved the bout off at the 1:50 mark after examining Guerrero, who had blood flowing from his mouth. The vicious knockout raised the 25-year-old Ponce-DeLeon's ledger to an impressive 28-1 (26), while Guerrero, who stayed on the canvas for a few minutes while the ringside physicians examined him, fell to 31-7 (23).

"I want people to know that I'm worthy of being televised, but whether I fight on TV or not, I'm going to give the fans a good performance," Ponce-DeLeon said.

Promoter: **Golden Boy Promotions**
(5-27-06)
Brent Matteo Alderson

Markus Beyer Tech. Draw 4 Sakio Bika

Zwickau, Germany: With a unification fight against Joe Calzaghe, THE RING'S super middleweight champion, in the offing for Beyer, 167½, Bremen, Germany, there was consternation in his camp as he got cut in the second round and tagged hard in the third by Bika, 168, Sydney, Australia, via Douala, Cameroon. But Beyer escaped on a controversial ruling that rendered the fight at the Stadthalle a technical draw after four rounds. Beyer was defending the WBC super middleweight title for the fifth time since beating Cristian Sanavia in October 2004, having held the belt twice previously.

Inevitably, comparisons were drawn with Beyer's first clash against another Australian, Danny Green, three years ago, when the German titleholder was floored twice before Green was disqualified for an intentional headbutt. After four rounds against Bika, judge Gary Ritter (USA) incredibly had Beyer ahead 40-36, while the other two judges, Massimo Barrovecchio (Italy) and Ian John Lewis (England), had the fight even at 38-38. Certainly, the decision made by American referee Joe Cortez—that a headbutt had caused a second cut above Beyer's right eye, leaving him unable to continue—annoyed Bika and his cornermen.

"The referee stopped for the doctor to look at the cut and he [the referee] knew it was a punch," insisted Bika. "They started talking, and Beyer's trainer said they had to stop the fight. I was hitting him every time with my left hand. I controlled the fight. I'm very disappointed. Anyone who watches the fight can see for justice to be served, they have to give me a rematch. I ask the WBC to review the fight and order a rematch."

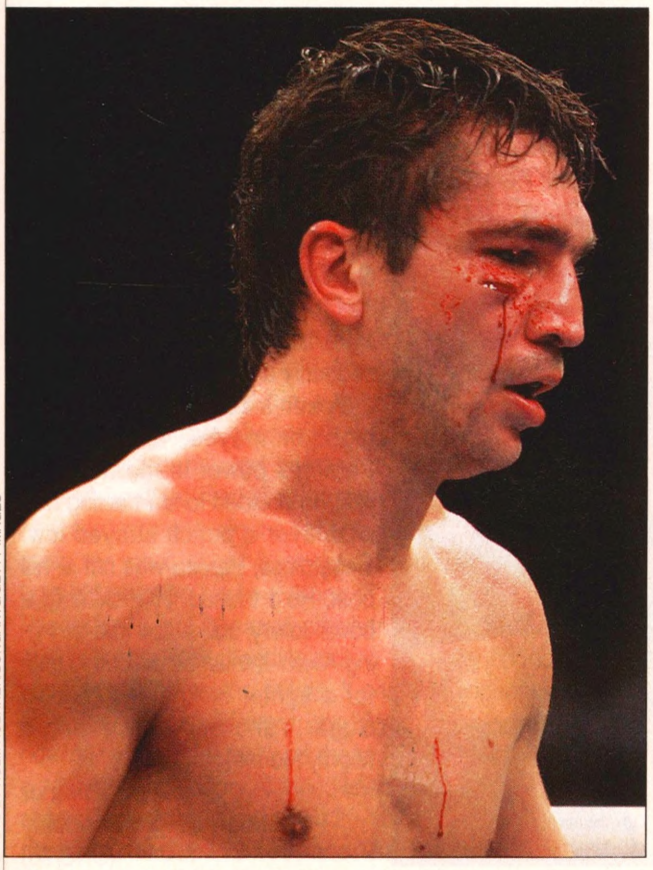


PHOTO BY HOLM FOEHNER/BONGARTS/GETTY IMAGES

Did cut-eye technical draw with Bika save Beyer's belt?

For two rounds, the pace was slow, neither fighter committing to any serious assault, but a left hook by Bika, 27, opened a cut beneath Beyer's right eye in the second. "Sakio was very nervous, very cautious," said Bika's manager, Angelo Hyder. "It had been a long time since he fought 12 rounds and he just wanted to get the first four rounds under his belt, but he was hitting Beyer with every jab he threw."

In the third, Bika, 20-1-2 (13), landed a short left uppercut that hurt Beyer, 34-2-1 (13), and sent him into retreat, but the German southpaw recovered and managed to retaliate with a succession of hard lefts that backed the challenger to the ropes before the bell. Then came the controversy of the fourth, when the fighters' heads came together accidentally and Beyer emerged with blood dripping from his right eyelid. Troubled by the injury, he returned to his corner at the bell with a resigned look. The doctor came into the ring to inspect the wound, and, after consultation, Cortez waved the fight over and ruled it a technical draw.

"Beyer sustained not one, but two cuts near his right eye, one just over the eyelid below the eyebrow and one below the eye itself," explained Chris Meyer of Sauerland Promotions. "The referee did not stop the fight because of the cut below the eye but because of the cut below the eyelid. The correct ruling was made and now we are looking at the next step for Markus."

At 35, however, he is showing considerable wear and tear and, in a match with Calzaghe, he would be a heavy underdog. "We are very interested in this fight," Beyer's promoter, Wilfried Sauerland, maintained. "The offers we received before for the fight were not acceptable, but, hopefully, this time, we can come to an agreement."

Promoter: **Sauerland Promotions**
(5-13-06)
Brian Doogan

Arthur Abraham W 12 Kofi Jantuah

Zwickau, Germany: Whether or not Abraham, 159¾, Berlin, Germany, via Yerevan, Armenia, is given the opportunity one day to demonstrate his class in the U.S., the 26-year-old has already earned the distinction of being counted among the world's best middleweights. Against Jantuah, a 31-year-old Ghanaian who now lives in Las Vegas, he had to withstand hard punches before breaking his opponent's firm resolve, achieving both to defend the IBF middleweight title for the second time at the Stadthalle.

"I tried to stop him, but you can't get everything you want," said Abraham. "It was a hard fight and I learned a lot. Kofi's head must be made of stone, the kind of punches he took. He was unbelievably strong. But I'm happy to win and defend my title and, of course, I would love to fight in America soon against some of their top boxers. Before I retire I want to be champion at middleweight, super middleweight, and light heavyweight as well."

Jantuah, 158¾, had moved up from junior middleweight, where he lost a wide decision to Kassim Ouma for the IBF 154-pound title last year. A powerful puncher in that division, he managed to carry his strength into the higher division, trading jabs and powershots with Abraham from the opening round, being assertive and driving forward. Abraham's jab worked well, too, and his defensive skills negated the aggression shown by the American-based African. By the halfway point, he had taken the play away almost completely, dictating the action with his strong jab and mixing his punches effectively to head and body.

American referee Robert Byrd deducted a point from Abraham's total at the end of the seventh for a punch that clearly landed on Jantuah's ear, not behind the head as the official believed. Rocked several times by Abraham's more accurate punches, Jantuah, 30-3 (19), had to dig in to survive, and he remained positive despite falling farther behind. In the 10th, he even had Abraham, 21-0 (17), in some trouble from a strong right to the jaw, the Armenian forced to clinch until his head cleared. But he regained the initiative to finish the bout strongly, firing hooks and crosses in the final round to try to take out an opponent who was simply too proud to be knocked off his feet.

All three judges scored for Abraham, Berit Andreasen (Denmark) 116-111, Joseph Pasquale (USA) 117-109, and Phil Edwards (England) 115-112. THE RING scored it 116-112 for Abraham.

A unification fight with Germany's WBA middleweight titleholder, Felix Sturm, could be possible before the end of the year, though Sturm had first to come through a mandatory defense against Javier Castillejo, scheduled for July 15.

Promoter: **Sauerland Promotions**

(5-13-06)

Brian Doogan

Eric Aiken W Disq. 8 Valdemir Pereira

Boston, Massachusetts: No one enjoys seeing a title change hands on a foul, but when "Mighty Mouse" Aiken hunched over and grimaced for what seemed like the 10th time, referee Charlie Dwyer (USA) chose to disqualify IBF featherweight boss Pereira and award the belt to Aiken, a late substitute for the injured Esham Pickering. The spectators at the TD Banknorth Garden, a large percentage coming from England to see Ricky Hatton fight Luis Collazo in the main event, booed loudly. Despite the jeering, Aiken, 16-4 (12), raised the IBF belt overhead as his cornermen carried him around the ring.

"We knew he was a dirty fighter," Aiken said. "But he gave me a chance, and I respect him for giving me a chance." Pereira, who was making his first defense of the vacant title he'd claimed against Fahprakorb Rakkiatgym four months earlier, blamed the referee for allowing Aiken to wear his protective cup so high. "It was not intentional," Pereira said of the low blows. He'd been warned repeatedly since the third round.

After a modest start, Aiken, 125, Marysville, Ohio, broke out in the fourth when he hammered Pereira's body and then dropped the titleholder with a thundering left hook. The previously undefeated Pereira, 126, Sao Caetano Do Sul, Brazil, was still dazed at the beginning of the fifth, but after being decked a second time (he actually grabbed Aiken by the legs and tried pulling him to the canvas with him), Pereira rose and started firing back. Aiken shrugged the blows off, but Pereira followed up with a second rally that lasted at least 45 seconds. Aiken, 26, was visibly hurt, and the crowd roared its approval at the bell. It may have been an off-television bout that will be forgotten by the year's end, but the fifth round should be a candidate for Round of the Year.

The fierce action didn't last. Although he'd looked fit as a racehorse, Pereira, 24-1 (15), seemed spent. He had points deducted in the sixth and seventh, and each low blow caused a delay as Aiken took his time recovering. At 1:37 of the eighth, Aiken's hand was raised and Pereira, 31, was suddenly a former titlist.

Aiken's cup may have been high, or maybe, after feeling Pereira's power in the hell-bent fifth, he decided to start acting hurt whenever a punch strayed low. Regardless, Pereira was not at his best. He'd trained for Pickering, a boxer totally unlike the free-swinging Aiken. It must be difficult to train for a fighter nicknamed "Brown Sugar," and end up fighting a Mighty Mouse.

Promoters: **Banner Promotions, Fight Academy**

(5-13-06)

Don Stradley

PHOTO BY HOLM ROEHNER/BONGARTS/GETTY IMAGES

Abraham hammers Jantuah with a left in grueling title defense

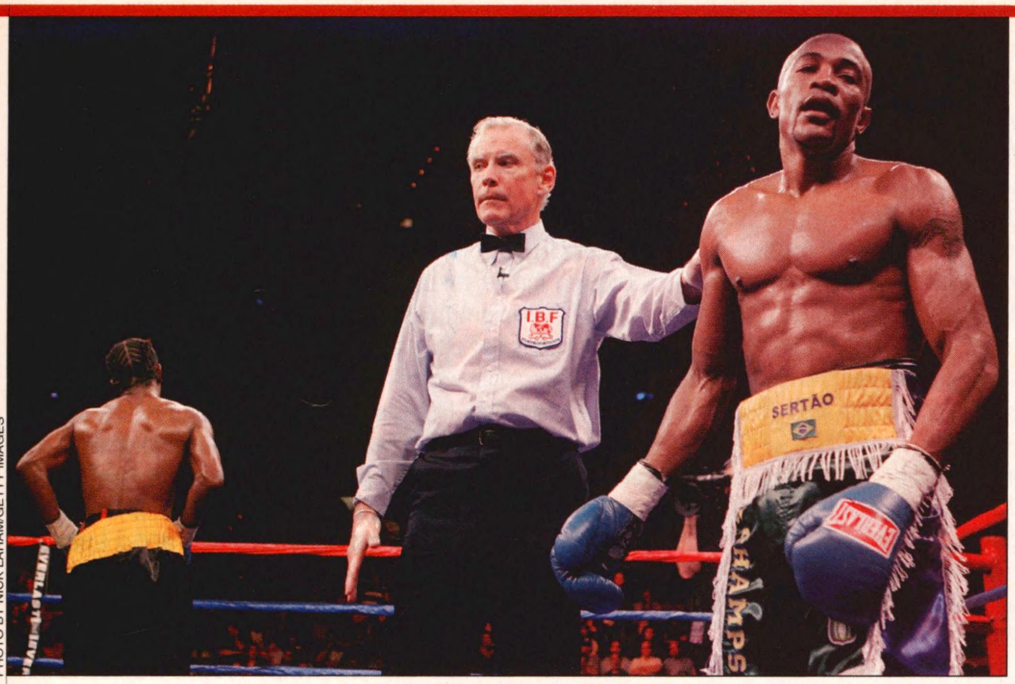


PHOTO BY NICK LAHAM/GETTY IMAGES

Referee Charlie Dwyer disqualifies Pereira in the eighth round

Roberto Vasquez W 12 Noel Arambulet

Panama City, Panama: Entering his third defense of the WBA junior flyweight title, Vasquez was developing a reputation as an exciting titleholder with a penchant for working some drama into his fights. But this fight against Arambulet couldn't possibly have contradicted that reputation more. In an extremely dull fight in which two-time former strawweight titlist Arambulet produced no offense and Vasquez produced just enough—mostly with his jab—to carry the rounds, "La Arana" ("The Spider") won an easy unanimous decision at the ATLAPA Convention Center.

After two slow opening rounds came the fight's only real moment of excitement when Vasquez, 107¾, Panama City, hammered Arambulet, 107½, Churuguara, Venezuela, to the canvas with a right hand in the third. But the beltholder didn't press his advantage, instead choosing to move backward, jab, counterpunch, and play defense. Meanwhile, the 32-year-old Arambulet—whose best days appear to be behind him—failed in all of his efforts to muster an effective offense.

Vasquez continued sweeping the rounds, and by the sixth, Arambulet started to turn up the aggression, knowing he wasn't going to win the fight on points. But this just left him open for more shots from the 23-year-old Vasquez, who enjoyed perhaps his best round of the fight. Again, however, Vasquez, 22-1 (17), eased off when he had Arambulet, 22-6-1 (11), in trouble, choosing not to take any chances as he cautiously piled up the points. It seemed unnecessary to be so safety conscious when the Venezuelan so clearly had nothing to offer, but that was the route La Arana chose, and it did lead him to victory. Judge Nelson Vasquez (Puerto Rico) scored it a clean sweep at 120-107, Enrique Portocarrero (Panama) had it 119-108, and Uriel Aguilera (Venezuela) showed quite a bit of mercy for the challenger, handing in a 117-110 card. The referee was Steve Smoger (USA).

After the fight, Vasquez announced that he was through with the junior flyweight division and would be moving up to 112 pounds. Chances are that he will find foes much more challenging than Arambulet in that talent-packed weight class.

Promoter: **Ring Promotions**

(5-20-06)

Muhammad Rachman KO 6 Omar Soto

Jakarta, Indonesia: Fighting in front of a partisan crowd of approximately 2,500 at Senayan Indoor Tennis Stadium, IBF minimumweight titleholder Rachman landed a huge right hook to the jaw of challenger Soto in round six, dropping him for the full count to make his second defense of the title he won in September of 2004 from Daniel Reyes.

Before the bout, a brief dispute regarding the wrapping of Soto's hands caused minor friction between the two camps. A member of Rachman's camp insisted that Soto's manager, Antonio Losado Castillo, not be allowed to wrap Soto's knuckles with gauze, but the rules state that the knuckles can be wrapped with gauze but not tape, so the IBF official in attendance quickly squelched the controversy.

Soto, 104, Mexico City, came out of the gate quickly, ripping hard bodyshots and looping overhand rights. He clearly held the edge over Rachman, 105, Probolinggo, Indonesia, in the speed department, but the titleholder remained composed, countering with jabs and the occasional right hand of his own. In the second round, Soto continued to jab and work the body. Rachman landed only sporadically, but his punches clearly had an effect on Soto; each time a right hand landed, it froze Soto and forced him to regroup. Near the end of the round, "The Rockbreaker" unleashed a right-hand missile, connecting to the chin of Soto and staggering the fighter known as "Lobito." Rachman was unable to capitalize, though, and the bell saved Soto from further punishment.

Soto, 26, recovered between rounds and came out aggressively, snapping his jab in the face of the 33-year-old Rachman and following up with drum-beating bodyshots. Rachman remained unfazed, smiling and waving Soto in. Soto picked up the pace, moving side-to-side and darting in and out with short, crisp combinations.

Lobito continued to fight well in round four, boxing smartly and sliding out of danger. Soto's confidence increased with

each flurry and he looked to be heading for a points win. Undaunted, Rachman pressed forward, content to wait for the opportunity to land the one big bomb.

Although Soto was outboxing Rachman and continued to do so in round five, each punch The Rockbreaker managed to connect with visibly pained the Mexican fighter. In round six, Rachman closed the distance and landed a sharp right, rocking Soto. The two exchanged serious punches, and Rachman landed a right, followed by another right. The second punch dropped Soto to all fours. The Mexican fighter was unable to move and stayed down for the duration of Australian referee John Wright's count, the end coming at 1:56 of round six.

"I knew I would get to him eventually. He couldn't hurt me with his punches, so I knew it was only a matter of time before he got careless," said Rachman, 51-7-4 (23).

"Omar boxed a perfect fourth round," said manager Losado Castillo. "But he was dropping his left hand after he punched and this allowed Rachman to come over the top with the right hand."

"I gave it my best and just got caught," Soto, 14-3-1 (10), said. "This is boxing."

When asked whom he'd like to face next, Rachman confidently stated, "I'll fight anyone. Ivan Calderon—anyone, I'll be ready for them!"

Promoter: **Muhammad Arsyad**
(5-6-06)
Scott Mallon

Clinton Woods KO 6 Jason DeLisle

Sheffield, England: Floored by DeLisle, 174, Sydney, Australia, in the opening round of their previous meeting in October 2004, which he remained in peril of losing before rallying to win by final-round stoppage, Woods, 175, Sheffield, England, had no such difficulty in the rematch at Pond's Forge. Utilizing his right uppercut to devastating effect and stopping the Australian in the sixth round to retain the IBF light heavyweight title for the second time, the 34-year-old Englishman set up a possible third encounter with Glen Johnson, against whom he gained a draw in November 2003 before losing their February 2004 rematch on points.

The 37-year-old Johnson is the mandatory challenger for the belt he once was stripped of for daring to take a real championship fight against Antonio Tarver. "We're looking for the fight to happen in August or September, and if I win the purse bids, it will take place in Florida," said Leon Margules, Johnson's promoter.

Woods, 39-3-1 (34), who would be prepared to take the fight in the U.S. having previously fought Roy Jones in Portland, Oregon, knew he had to take care of DeLisle first, and he was prepared for the Australian's aggressive tactics from the outset. His guard was high and remained tight, and his left jab proved accurate and productive as DeLisle, 18-5-2 (9), tried to muscle inside. Even in the opening round, Woods landed the right uppercut to good effect, buckling DeLisle's knees with one potent demonstration of the punch, and at the bell to end the round, he looked confident of making this a

PHOTO BY JOHN GICHIGI/GETTY IMAGES

Woods crack DeLisle with a right en route to sixth-round knockout victory

much easier night than it had been when they first clashed.

DeLisle, 34, landed a solid left early in round two, but Woods remained focused, boxing well behind his jab and picking off the Australian with several combinations. But the challenger continued to fight aggressively, despite being caught even more frequently in the third, and had success in the fourth with his jab and a strong right hand, supplemented by some useful work to the body. His corner urged him on, clearly happy as he returned to the stool between rounds, but Woods responded in the fifth, evading the majority of DeLisle's left hooks and employing the jab and right uppercut again to keep him at bay. Still, the swiftness of DeLisle's demise was surprising.

PHOTO BY SCOTT MALLON

Rachman (left) covers up as Soto attacks during failed title bid

Having been backed up by another spirited attack by the challenger, Woods retaliated with the right uppercut before letting both hands fly as he backed DeLisle to the ropes. Hurt but still full of resolve, DeLisle fired back, but got nailed again by a hard right uppercut and fell to the floor heavily. Without even taking up a count, English referee Dave Parris waved the fight off at 1:55 of the sixth.

"Jason was disappointed at the stoppage, but I said to him that it was downhill from where he was going and the referee did the right thing," said Dino Billinghurst, DeLisle's trainer. "Clinton was a 100 percent better fighter than when he fought Jason the first time. He deserved the victory because he fought a smart fight."

Whether he has improved sufficiently to finally get the better of Johnson remains to be seen.

Promoter: **Fight Academy**
(5-13-06)
Brian Doogan

Julio Diaz W 12 Ricky Quiles

Hollywood, Florida: The IBF took advantage of Jesus Chavez' injury woes to create a money-sucking "interim" lightweight title, and Diaz took advantage of the IBF's move, easily outboxing the overmatched Quiles to add another belt to his collection. The belt has no value to real boxing fans, but a fight between Diaz and Chavez—presumably a fight the IBF will push to make whenever Chavez is ready—would have plenty of value.

Diaz expressed some concerns before the fight about getting a fair shake from the three Florida judges on the home turf of Ft. Lauderdale's Quiles, but the fight, and the individual rounds, just weren't close enough for any judge to screw it up. Judge Alex Levin scored it 120-108, Peter Trematerra saw it 119-109, and Michael Pernick had it 118-110, giving Diaz his third straight win since a painful kayo loss to Jose Luis Castillo in a *real* lightweight title fight in March '05.

"It was a very easy fight," Diaz said afterward. "I knew that I was in no danger with Quiles, that it would be a pretty smooth fight. But I didn't think it was going to be this easy. He felt my power in the first round. I knew after the first round that the fight was won already."

Diaz, 134, Coachella, California, was extremely accurate with his punches from the get-go, taking the pro-Quiles crowd of approximately 1,500 at the Hard Rock Live Arena out of the fight. The southpaw Quiles, 135, spent most of the first half of the bout on his bicycle, in retreat, but the 26-year-old Diaz stayed on top of his opponent 10 years his senior, using a snapping right hand to consistently inflict damage. In the second half of the fight, Quiles moved less and tried to stand and trade with Diaz, but he lacks punching power and was thoroughly outclassed in those efforts as well. At the end of 12, there wasn't a single round that "Showtime" Quiles, 39-7-3 (8), had won clearly, and as the judges' cards indicated, there were only one or two in which there was even an argument not to give 10 points to Diaz.

"If Chavez is ready," said Diaz, 33-3 (24), "I'd be more than glad to say, 'Let's do it.'"

And fans would be more than glad to say, "Let's see it." Certainly, it promises to be a more competitive match than this was.

Television: **Pay-Per-View**
Promoter: **Warriors Boxing**
(5-18-06) ■

BACK ISSUES OF BOXING 88/2005

Offering a fresh perspective on the fight game through the eyes of its top-notch writers, columnists, and photographers, "The Fight Fan's Magazine" has earned recognition as one of the top boxing magazines around. Back issues are available for selected issues. Our supplies are limited. Order today!

Jan. 1988: Why Marvin Hagler Must Return, By Sugar Ray Leonard. Also: Roberto Duran, Vinny Pazienza, Darrin Van Horn, Marlon Starling, Holyfield-Qawi preview.

Feb. 1988: Mike Tyson: Awesome When It Counts. Also: Pazienza-Haugen, Matthew Hilton, Tim Witherspoon, guide to heavyweights.

March 1988: A Look Back At '87, And A Look Ahead To '88. Also: Bobby Czyz, Julio Cesar Chavez, Tyson-Holmes preview.

April 1988: Thomas Hearns: Why He Will Beat Leonard And Hagler … And Why He Won't. Also: Mike McCallum, Ramirez-Whitaker preview, light heavyweights.

May 1988: Leonard, Hagler, Camacho, Spinks: Have You Seen These Men? Also: Mike Tyson, Donny Lalonde, Wimpy Halstead, Holyfield-Cooper preview.

June 1988: The Tyson-Spinks Showdown: The 10 Most Critical Questions Of Superfight '88. Also: Greg Haugen, McGirt-Warren, Starling-Breland II preview.

July 1988: Tyson's Former Trainer Reveals: "Michael Spinks Will Knock Out Mike Tyson!" Also: Whitaker-Ramirez, Carlos Zarate, Hearns-Barkley preview.

Aug. 1988: Tyson vs. Spinks: Preview & Analysis Of Superfight '88. Also: Haugen-Santana, Roger Mayweather, Julio Cesar Chavez, superfights.

Sept. 1988: A Revealing Look At Boxing's Best And Worst. Also: Dennis Andries, Calvin Grove, Tate-Nunn preview.

Oct. 1988: No Doubts Remain: Mike Tyson Defeats Spinks For The Undisputed Championship. Also: Thomas Hearns, Davey Moore, Haugen-Rosario preview, deserving and undeserving contenders.

Nov. 1988: Mike Tyson vs. The Heavyweight Greats: Ali, Dempsey, Louis, Marciano. Also: Orlando Canizales, John Mugabi, Evander Holyfield, Ray Mancini, Chavez-Ramirez preview.

Dec. 1988: Leonard vs. Lalonde: Can Sugar Ray Actually Lose? Also: Michael Spinks, Michael Nunn, Julian Jackson, fighters in peril.

Feb. 1989: Tyson vs. Bruno: A Mismatch No Longer? Also: Vito Antuofermo, Orlin Norris, key moments in boxing history, Louie Lomeli, Michael Moorer.

March 1989: A Look Back At '88, And A Look Ahead To '89. Also: Sugar Ray Leonard, Thomas Hearns, Darrin Van Horn, Haugen-Whitaker preview.

May 1989: Will Tyson Survive 1989? A BOXING 89 Debate. Also: Frank Bruno, Evander Holyfield, Willem Dafoe.

July 1989: Born Again … Again: Duran Conquers Barkley. Also: Tyson-Bruno, Olympians, Tommy Gallagher, Chavez-Mayweather preview.

Sept. 1989: Sugar Ray Robinson: Photographic Tribute To The Master. Also: Pernell Whitaker, Mark Breland, Richard Steele, Tyson-Williams preview.

Nov. 1989: 10 Reasons Why Thomas Hearns Punished Ray Leonard. Also: Michael Moorer, Orlando Canizales, Al Braverman, Chavez-Taylor preview.

Jan. 1990: Who Should Tyson Fight: Evander Holyfield Or George Foreman? Also: Pernell Whitaker, Felt Forum, Ross Greenburg, Leonard-Duran preview.

Sept. 1990: The Light Heavyweights' Star-Studded Future. Also: Starling-Nunn, Tracy Spann, George Benton, John L. Sullivan, Tyson-Foreman preview.

Nov. 1990: Tyson vs. Foreman: It's Coming! Also: Bobby Czyz, Jeff Lampkin, Sean O'Grady, Bob Fitzsimmons, Nunn-Curry preview.

Jan. 1991: No More Lightweight Concerns: Is Pernell Whitaker The Man To Beat Chavez? Also: Aaron Davis, Pazienza-Haugen III, Roberto Duran, Bill Parcells, Tommy Burns, Williams-Moorer preview.

March 1991: Who Will Survive In 1991? Also: Holyfield-Douglas, Nunn-Curry, Buddy McGirt, Jess Willard, Nelson-Fenech preview.

May 1991: The Heavyweight Division: Alive And Punching. Also: Simon Brown, Marcos Villasana, Year That Was: 1964, Gene Tunney, Chavez-Taylor preview.

July 1991: Terry Norris Defeats A Legend, But Can He Become A Star? Also: Julian Jackson, Camacho-Haugen, Sugar Ray Leonard, Jack Sharkey, McCallum-Nunn preview.

Sept. 1991: It Was No Joke: Rev. George Makes Believers Of Us All. Also: Jerry Buss, Max Baer, Reggie Johnson, Riddick Bowe, Tommy Morrison, Bruce Seldon, Michael Moorer, Jake Rodriguez.

Nov. 1991: Ruddock Stood Tall, But Holyfield Will Fall: Mike Tyson Still Has What It Takes. Also: Kid Akeem, superstitions, would-be superstars, Joe Louis, Hearns-Czyz preview.

Jan. 1992: The Holyfield-Tyson Showdown: The 10 Most Critical Questions Of Superfight '91. Also: Riddick Bowe, Great Western Forum, Bobby Czyz.

May 1992: Boxing's Four-Star Future: Toney, Bowe, Norris, And McGirt. Also: McCallum-Toney, Junior Jones, Sonny Liston, Year That Was: 1980, Chavez-McGirt preview.

July 1992: Larry "Old Folk" Holmes: A One-Fight Wonder Or A Real Title Threat? Also: Mike Tyson, Vinny Pazienza, Toney-Tiberi, Joe Frazier, McGirt-Taylor II preview.

Sept. 1992: Foreman, Get Out Now! Before You Get Seriously Hurt! Also: Greg Haugen, Gerald McClellan, Julio Cesar Chavez, Toney-Jackson, history of the heavyweights.

Nov. 1992: Holyfield-Holmes: Should We Have Expected Anything More? Also: Joey Gamache, Lamar Parks, Toney & Jackson, The Year That Was: 1968, Hall of Fame weekend, McGirt-Blocker preview.

March 1993: The Heavyweight Hangers-On: Former Champions Dream The Impossible Dream. Also: Roberto Duran, Jesse James Leija, champions stay/go, The Year That Was: 1956.

May 1993: Heavyweight Champion Riddick Bowe: BOXING 93 Names The Man Who Will Beat Him! Also: Vinny Pazienza, Whitaker-McGirt preview, 1992: The Year In Pictures.

July 1993: The Undisputed Bad Boy Of Boxing: James Toney Whips Iran Barkley. Also: Tony Lopez, Kostya Tszyu, Julio Cesar Chavez, The Year That Was: 1977, Jones-Hopkins.

March 1994: Do Today's Heavyweights Stink? BOXING 94 Analyzes The Question … The Answer May Shock You! Also: Benn-Eubank II, trainers' secrets, Brad Jacobs, McKinney-Patterson preview.

May 1994: Roberto Duran At 100!! (Fights, Not Years). Also: Carbajal-Gonzalez II preview, Kelley-Vargas, Bruce Trampler, People's Choice Heavyweight Tournament.

July 1994: The Moorer-Holyfield War: Our Exclusive Analysis And Prediction. Also: Randall-Chavez I, Eric Holland, The Rematches, James Braddock.

Sept. 1994: Mike Tyson—336 More Days For #922335. Also: Leavander Johnson, lucky losers, Panama Lewis, Ad Wolgast, Cornelius Boza-Edwards, De La Hoya-Molina preview.

Nov. 1994: You Might Not Like This But … Lennox Lewis Is The Best Heavyweight In The World. Also: Gerald McClellan, Frankie Randall, Roy Jones, Gabe Ruelas-Leija preview.

Dec. 1994 (84-Page Special Edition): Boxing And Wrestling Have More In Common Than You Think! Also: The 1980s: Boxing's Greatest Decade, Verno Phillips, Sergei Kobozev, Mike McCallum, Tony Galento, Michael Buffer.

March 1995: An American Love Story: Why We're Crazy About Big George. Also: Danny Romero, 32 stars of tomorrow, Vincent Pettway, Johnny Tocco, Young Stribling, Holmes-McCall preview.

May 1995: '95 Alive! The 10 Fights We'd Like To See. Also: Roy Jones, Bob Lee, Bobby Crabtree, Owen Moran, Vasquez-Whitaker preview.

July 1995: Tyson-The Five Men He Should Fight … And The Five He Should Avoid. Also: Benn-McClellan, Holyfield-Mercer preview, Arnie Rosenthal.

Jan. 1996: Holyfield Answers The Tough Questions. Also: Wayne McCullough, puncher vs. puncher, Paul Vaden, pay-per-view.

March 1996: Amidst The Confusion … Bowe Stands Tall. Also: Whitaker vs. Greats, British tragedies, Tim Witherspoon, Frank Warren, Benn-Collins preview.

May 1996: Bruno's Better, Tyson's Worse …Will It Make A Difference? Also: Arturo Gatti, Gerry Cooney, Frans Botha, Hector Camacho.

July 1996: Oscar De La Hoya vs. Julio Cesar Chavez—Exclusive Analysis & Prediction. Also: Marco Antonio Barrera, Wayne McCullough, Johnny Tapia & Sugar Ray Leonard, Kevin Kelley.

Nov. 1996: Oscar's Hit List: Nobody's Too Tough For "The Golden Boy." Also: Michael Moorer, Gatti-Patterson II preview, Frankie Liles, Kevin Kelley, Henry Akinwande, Archie Moore.

Jan. 1997: Scared Stiff! Seldon Wimps Out Against Tyson. Can Holyfield Reverse The Ugly Trend? Also: Lou Savarese, David Reid, Luis Rodriguez, best body-punchers, Ali vs. the greats.

May 1997: Evander Holyfield—Five Questions That Must Be Answered. Also: Ray Mercer, Phillip Holiday, Tommy Brooks, Jimmy Braddock, Carmen Basilio.

July 1997: Holyfield-Tyson II: BOXING 97 Analyzes The Richest Fight In History. Also: Oliver McCall, Mark Johnson, Riddick Bowe, top trainers.

Nov. 1997: Holyfield vs. Tyson: Victim As Hero—A Story of Grace And Disgrace. Also: Marvin Hagler, *Boxing After Dark*, Camacho-De La Hoya preview.

Jan. 1998: Holyfield vs. The All-Time Greats. Also: Holmes-Foreman, Hector Lopez, Omar Sheika.

March 1998: Evander's Road To Unification: Tyson, Moorer Down—Lewis Is Next! Also: Joe Calzaghe, Oliver McCall, Lopez-Quartey.

May 1998: Five Greatest Stars And Their Greatest Threats. Also: 10 Best Fights of 1997 (color), Battling Siki.

July 1998: Boxing's 20 Most Frequently Asked Questions! Also: Danny Romero, Stevie Johnston, Fernando Vargas.

Sept. 1998: The Battle Of The Superstars! Why De La Hoya's Always A Step Ahead Of Jones. Also: Thomas Tate, Vargas-Reid preview, Keith Mullings, Carl Thompson, Frazier-Marciano fantasy, heavyweight prospects.

Nov. 1998: Kennedy McKinney vs. Naseem Hamed: Can The King Dethrone The Prince? Also: Gerry Penalosa, Matthew Saad Muhammad, Zulfia Koutdussova, Quartey-Trinidad preview.

Jan. 1999: Boxing Insiders Poll: Is Michael Grant The Next Great Heavyweight? Also: Mike Tyson, Robinson-Gatti I, Mosley-Phillips preview, Razor Ruddock, middleweights, Vitali & Wladimir Klitschko.

March 1999: The Secret Of Mike Tyson's Enduring Popularity. Also: Sharmba Mitchell, Holyfield-Lewis preview, John Brown, Roberto Garcia.

May 1999: What Boxing Fans Have To Look Forward To! Also: Arturo Gatti, Antonio Tarver, 1998 in review.

July 1999: After Coming Off The Floor To Beat Quartey … Now, Even Oscar's Convinced. Also: Bernard Hopkins, Jesse Ferguson, Lou Del Valle, one-punch knockouts.

Sept. 1999: The Numbers Don't Lie: A Statistical Analysis Of Boxing's Best. Also: Lennox Lewis, Tony Ayala, Hasim Rahman.

Nov. 1999: George Foreman vs. Mike Tyson: It's So Crazy, It Just Might Work! Also: Grant-Ibeabuchi, De La Hoya-Trinidad, John Ruiz, Max Kellerman.

Jan. 2000: The Best (And Worst) Of Everything. Also: Eric Morrel, Erik & Diego Morales, Stevie Johnston, Tszyu-Gonzalez.

March 2000: The 10 Fights That Must Be Made! Also: Mike Tysqp, Lonnie Bradley, Naseem Hamed, Laila Ali.

May 2000: Bernard Hopkins: "Just Because I Can Fight Doesn't Mean I Can't Think." Also: Klitschko brothers, Randall Bailey, Erik Morales, Vargas-Quartey preview.

July 2000: The Junior Welterweight Division: The Class Of Boxing. Also: Morales, Barrera, Trinidad-Reid, Beau Jack.

Sept. 2000: Lennox Lewis Is Unstoppable! Also: Antonio Diaz, Will Taylor, Mayweather-Corrales preview, fantasy tournament.

[FULL-COLOR BEGINNING JANUARY 2001]

Jan. 2001: Looking For That Crossover Superstar: Can Sugar Shane Put A "Tiger" In Boxing's Tank? Also: Zab Judah, Lou Del Valle, Eric Morel, 1975 vs. 2000, Lewis-Tua preview.

May 2001: Is Lennox Lewis Unbeatable? These Six Heavyweights Say "No!" Also: Felix Trinidad, Hamed-Barrera preview, Lawrence Clay-Bey, John Ruiz, 2000 in review.

Sept. 2001: De La Hoya's Destiny: Five Guys He Should Fight … Five He Shouldn't. Also: Barrera-Hamed, John Ruiz, Ray Mercer, Bones Adams, Rahman-Lewis, Fres Oquendo.

Jan. 2002: Heayweight Dilemma: Who Deserves The Next Shot? Also: Ramham-Lewis II preview, Shane Mosley, Ayala-Adams, Micky Ward, heayweight championship rematches.

May 2002: Wladimir Klitschko: Is He The Next Great Heavyweight? Also: Oliver McCall, Manuel Medina, Paul Spadafora, Barrera-Morales II preview, 2001 in review.

Sept. 2002: Boxing By The Numbers: A Different Look At The Best Of The Best. Also: Zab Judah, Barrera-Morales, Antonio Margarito & Daniel Santos, Tokunbo Olajide, DeMarcus Corley.

Jan. 2003: Klitschko vs. Lewis: Why Wait? Let's Get It On Now! Also: Felix Trinidad, Barrera-Morales II, Zab Judah, Forrest-Mosley II.

April 2003: Roy Jones' Heavyweight Gamble: The Experts Size Up His Chances. Also: Mike Tyson, Oscar De La Hoya, Vivian Harris, Lawrence Clay-Bey, fighting friends.

Aug. 2003: Mike Tyson—The Reconstruction Of A Myth. Also: Juan Manuel Marquez, Brian Kenny, Abdullaev-Cotto, Vonda Word, 2003 Hall of Fame, welterweights, PPV.

Dec. 2003: A Cut Above: Lewis-Klitschko ReVITALIzes The Heavyweight Division. Also: Jones-Holyfield, Gatti-Ward triology, Dan Goosen, Tiger Martinez, Jeff Lacy, division-jumping.

March 2004: Get Over It, Oscar! Your Redemption Lies Within The Ring. Also: Evander Holyfield, Joel Casamayor, Joe Mesi, Juan Lazcano, Frank Bruno, Audley Harrison.

July 2004: Retirements Be Damned … The Rematches We Demand! Also: Mike Tyson, Rocky Juarez, Felix Trinidad, Arturo Gatti, Kassim Ouma, Danny Green & Anthony Mundine.

Nov. 2004: De La Hoya & Hopkins: Ready For A War! Also: Roy Jones, Mayorga-Trinidad preview, Marty Sammon, Joe Tessitore, heavyweights.

March 2005: The Fall Of The Legends: Is It All Over For Roy & Oscar? Also: James Toney, Miguel Cotto, Andre Dirrell, Juan Diaz, *ShoBox*, gatekeepers.

July 2005: Arturo Gatti: Does He Really Need Mayweather? Also: Klitschko-Byrd, Samuel Peter, Kenny Bayless, Carlos Palomino, "washed-up" fighters.

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE AND MAIL TO:

LONDON PUBLISHING CO.
P.O. BOX 910
FT. WASHINGTON, PA 19034

ONLY $5 Each

Please send me the back issues I've checked. I enclose $_____ (U.S. FUNDS ONLY) as payment in full.

PRINT YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS CLEARLY

Name_____

Address_____ Apt._____

City_____ State_____ Zip_____

For all orders except the U.S., you must add one $1.50 for every back issue to be shipped by surface mail, and $3 for every back issue to be shipped airmail. Int'l money in U.S. funds only. Please allow 6-8 weeks for delivery

BOXING 88/2005

☐ JAN/88	☐ NOV/89	☐ JUL/93	☐ JUL/97	☐ JUL/00
☐ FEB/88	☐ JAN/90	☐ MAR/94	☐ NOV/97	☐ SEP/00
☐ MAR/88	☐ SEP/90	☐ MAY/94	☐ JAN/98	☐ OCT/00
☐ APR/88	☐ NOV/90	☐ JUL/94	☐ MAR/98	☐ JAN/01
☐ MAY/88	☐ JAN/91	☐ SEP/94	☐ MAY/98	☐ MAY/01
☐ JUN/88	☐ MAR/91	☐ NOV/94	☐ JUL/98	☐ SEP/01
☐ JUL/88	☐ MAY/91	☐ DEC/94	☐ SEP/98	☐ JAN/02
☐ AUG/88	☐ JUL/91	☐ MAR/95	☐ NOV/98	☐ MAY/02
☐ SEP/88	☐ SEP/91	☐ MAY/95	☐ JAN/99	☐ SEP/02
☐ OCT/88	☐ NOV/91	☐ JUL/95	☐ MAR/99	☐ JAN/03
☐ NOV/88	☐ JAN/92	☐ JAN/96	☐ MAY/99	☐ APR/03
☐ DEC/88	☐ MAY/92	☐ MAR/96	☐ JUL/99	☐ AUG/03
☐ FEB/89	☐ JUL/92	☐ MAY/96	☐ SEP/99	☐ DEC/03
☐ MAR/89	☐ SEP/92	☐ JUL/96	☐ NOV/99	☐ MAR/04
☐ MAY/89	☐ NOV/92	☐ NOV/96	☐ JAN/00	☐ JUL/04
☐ JUL/89	☐ MAR/93	☐ JAN/97	☐ MAR/00	☐ NOV/04
☐ SEP/89	☐ MAY/93	☐ MAY/97	☐ MAY/00	☐ MAR/05
				☐ JUL/05

In case of sellout, please list alternate choice:_____

7163/04-05

(Continued from Page 24)

For a while there, Stevens thought that football would be his ticket to a better life. He attended Samuel J. Tilden High School in Flatbush, and was a three-year varsity starter at tailback, earning all-city honors one year.

"I loved boxing, but I had fun playing football; boxing really wasn't fun to me then, it was more like a job," Stevens said.

But Showtime would soon be forced to make a choice. During summer practice leading into his senior year, Stevens made a cut and heard a pop in his left knee. His kneecap dislocated. Stevens placed the kneecap back in, but the injury was enough to set off alarms in Rozier's head.

That's when the edict came: No more football. It's been boxing ever since.

Once the dreams of playing in the NFL were out of his system, the next obstacle Stevens encountered was, well, himself. He endured a handful of amateur losses against less qualified opponents, in the opinion of himself and Rozier.

"Curtis wasn't dedicating himself in the amateurs like he should have," Rozier remembered. "That was a problem. He was losing to guys he shouldn't have lost to. That's why I put a constant barrage of discipline and dedication on Curtis. I'm not the easy guy to deal with; I'm the hard guy to deal with. You have to have someone stand behind you to kick you in the ass."

Stevens had a few, like Chris Lorenzo.

Lorenzo, president of The Inc. Records, with his brother, Irv Gotti, has known Stevens since he was 18. They were introduced to each other through a mutual friend. Lorenzo picked up on Stevens' punching power, but if he was going to make a commitment to Stevens, the young fighter first had to make a commitment to making himself better.

"Curtis is a great kid, but he is a kid from Brownsville," Lorenzo said. "Curtis was always a star among his peers, and he was always pampered. I saw something in Curtis. Finding talent is what I do. All athletes to me have certain qualities and certain drives. I saw them in Curt. He has the heart and killer instinct; you can't train someone to have those things.

"But Curtis wasn't training as an amateur. He wanted to run around with his friends in the streets. You have to run the five miles at five in the morning to be a world champion. Curt was depending on his natural ability. He had this stigma that he didn't train. I told him that if I was going to take him in, he had to want to train and work on being great."

Stevens has surrounded himself with a strong team, starting with promoter Lou DiBella and including Lorenzo and Rozier. He has an exciting style and punching power. What could be a concern is someone 5'7" with short, stubby arms campaigning at super middleweight. Stevens could possibly accomplish more at middleweight.

"Stevens can punch, and what makes him interesting is that his punches are all very short," said Steve Farhood, the ringside analyst for Showtime's *ShoBox* series. "You can tell Stevens has been very well taught. You would expect someone like him to lunge and throw long overhand rights and leave himself exposed. But he's very patient. His punching power is real, but his boxing ability right now is adequate. So the only question is his height. Is he too small to compete with other super middleweights?"

DiBella's main priority is getting Stevens rounds. Ten of his first 12 fights have ended either in the first or second rounds. In April, Stevens certainly passed a big test when he decisioned tricky veteran southpaw Carl Daniels over eight rounds. He evened jolted Daniels in the first, scoring a knockdown.

"Curtis passed the Daniels test with flying colors," DiBella said. "He's a very bright and very grounded kid. His punching power will make him very, very difficult for a lot of people. But I think there's no reason to rush Curtis. Part of having punching power is that you don't get as many rounds as you'd like. Carl Daniels was a great learning experience. It forced him to pay more attention to just winning other than taking guys out all of the time. He's heading toward title contention."

While Showtime improves and waits for his big chance, he's found motivation in someone who can't be with him.

PHOTO BY MARTY ROSENGARTEN

Curtis Stevens finished Kia Daniels with ease, scoring his sixth first-round knockout in his 10th pro fight in December 2005. Promoter Lou DiBella wants to move the 21-year-old super middleweight along slowly, working to get Stevens more experience.

Stevens' cousin, Dwayne "Divine" Stone, always had a way of peeling through Stevens' occasionally tough facade to reach him. But Stone wasn't at the Daniels fight. Stone has a fight of his own—against the New York City District Attorney's office for allegedly committing murder.

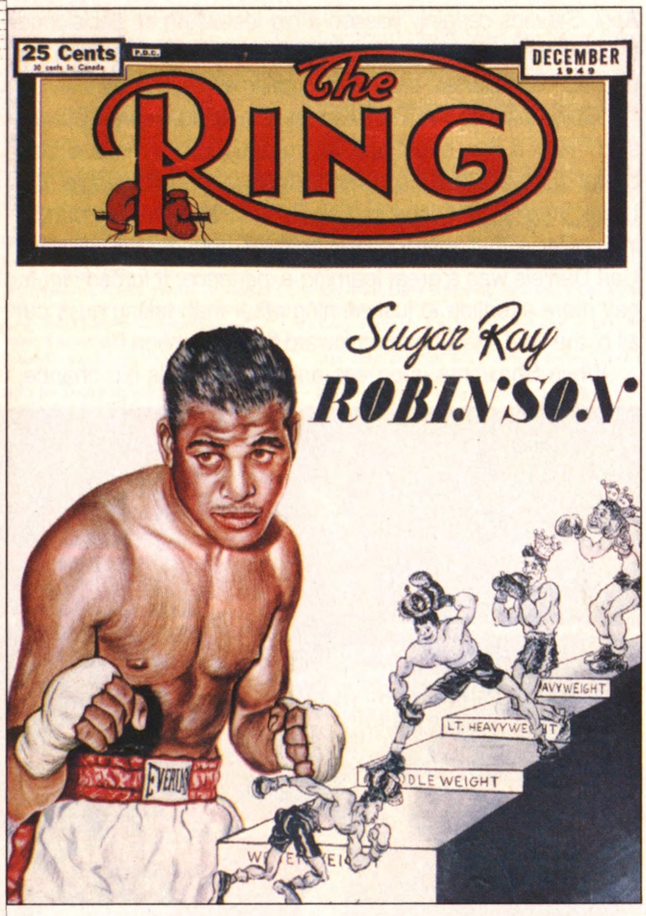
"Divine is the reason I am where I am today; he was my heart, and he is with me every day," Stevens said. "I have to be strong for him and me. I fight for more than myself when I get in the ring. I dedicate every fight to him now. My right hand is not there with me. There are times when I cry before I even go into the ring, because I know he's not there beside me. Divine was always on me about making something out of myself."

It looks like he is. ■

The Ring Flashback

Through the years with "The Bible of Boxing"

December 1949



COVER STORY: "Sugar Ray Robinson" As was frequently the case during this era, there was no feature article in this issue matching the cover illustration. Instead, in his "Nat Fleischer Says" column, the editor discussed the new rules adopted by the European Boxing Union (EBU) during its convention in Rome, and urged the National Boxing Association (NBA) and the New York State Athletic Commission, the two most powerful U.S. governing bodies at that time, to make similar rule changes.

One of the new rules that Fleischer supported related to welterweight champion Robinson, who wanted to move up and challenge for the middleweight title. New York commissioner Eddie Eagan had informed Robinson that he would have to give up the welterweight title *before* stepping in the ring to fight for the 160-pound title. Under the new EBU rules, a champion who attempts to win a belt at a higher weight did not have to relinquish his old title until seven days after the fight. That way, if he lost his bid, he'd still own the lighter-weight title.

As it turned out, by the time Robinson made his final defense of the welterweight title, in August 1950, he already held something called the "Pennsylvania State World Middleweight Title." From that point on, he campaigned as a 160-pounder, finally winning worldwide acceptance as middleweight champion by stopping Jake LaMotta in February '52.

World Champions

(for the period ended October 15, 1949)

Heavyweight: Title vacant
Light Heavyweight: Freddie Mills
Middleweight: Jake LaMotta
Welterweight: Ray Robinson
Lightweight: Ike Williams
Featherweight: Willie Pep
Bantamweight: Manuel Ortiz
Flyweight: Terry Allen

"Charles Adds To Laurels" is Harry Winkler's account of Ezzard Charles' successful defense of the NBA heavyweight title against Pat Valentino. Even though former champ Joe Louis had announced his retirement in March '49, and Charles had subsequently decisioned Jersey Joe Walcott for the vacant title, many, including The Ring, were reluctant to recognize him as the genuine champion. But his precise destruction of local favorite Valentino convinced most on hand that Charles was legitimate.

"The mob of 19,590 that crowded into San Francisco's mammoth Cow Palace ... readily conceded that the trim, sleek Negro from Cincinnati is a real champion," wrote Winkler after watching Charles knock out Valentino with a single right hand to the chin in the eighth round.

Valentino and Charles shake hands at the weigh-in

Charles fi-

nally won total acceptance as champion the following year when he soundly defeated a comebacking Louis.

"Uncle Mike's Story A Thriller" was the second in a series of articles by Daniel M. Daniel about the life and times of promoter Mike Jacobs, "the man who parlayed a native shrewdness into millions, the one-time newsboy who became czar of all boxing ..."

Promoter Jacobs in 1937

This installment concentrated on how Jacobs made his first fortune by cornering the market on tickets for the 1911 World Series.

"It is estimated that Jacobs cleaned up something like $100,000 on that series," wrote Daniel. "How did he get the tickets? Well, there was quite a to-do about that in New York. There was no commissioner to supervise the series and the tickets. Judge Landis did not come on the scene until later."

"The King And His Crown" Nat Loubet reports on featherweight champion Willie Pep's first defense of his second reign, a seventh-round TKO of Eddie Compo in front of a crowd of 10,722 at the Waterbury (Connecticut) Municipal Stadium.

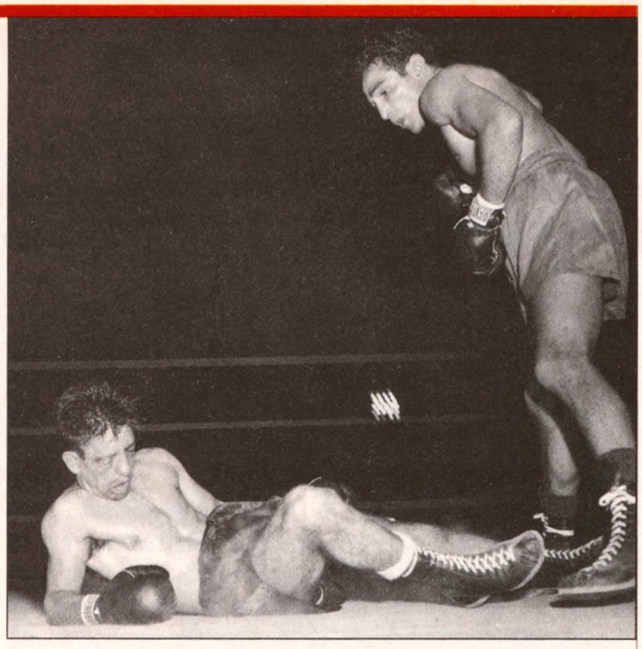
Loubet took the opportunity to discus earlier featherweight champions bouts held in the Nutmeg State, including Terry McGovern's 1901 kayo loss to Young Corbett in Hartford and the 1925 draw between champ Louis "Kid" Kaplan and challenger Babe Herman in Waterbury.

Even though it took him four trips to the scales before he made the 126-pound division limit, Pep won easily, dropping Compo twice in the fifth and then again in the seventh.

"Nebraska Boxing" Local correspondent Floyd Hayes documented an Omaha appearance by none other than Sugar Ray Robinson, who TKO'd Bennie Evans in the fifth round.

"Robinson never got vicious," wrote Hayes, "but went about his business in an easy-going manner, but each punch was razor sharp and carried authority."

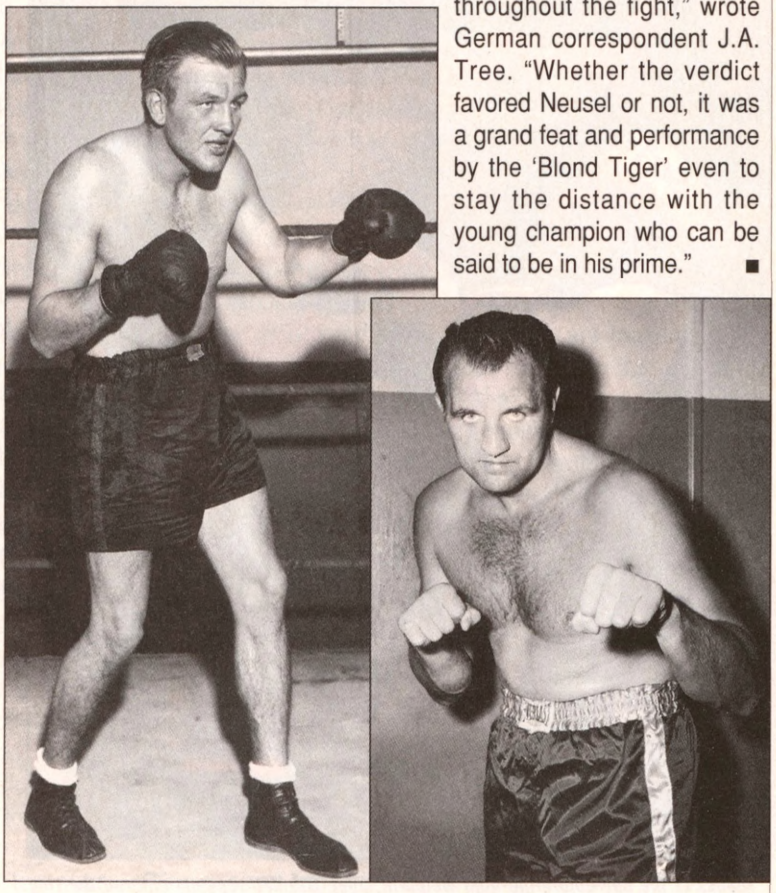
The "easy-going" Robinson knocked down Evans four times, opened cuts over both of his eyes, bloodied his nose, and loosened his front teeth before this mismatch was over. Good thing Sugar Ray didn't get "vicious."



Pep floors Compo in the seventh round

"German Boxing Diary" A gigantic crowd of approximately 50,000 turned out in Dusseldorf to see 41-year-old Walter Neusel hold German heavyweight champion Hein ten Hoff to a 12-round draw.

"The verdict was disputed by most, for it seemed that Hoff had done enough to win with his left hand work throughout the fight," wrote German correspondent J.A. Tree. "Whether the verdict favored Neusel or not, it was a grand feat and performance by the 'Blond Tiger' even to stay the distance with the young champion who can be said to be in his prime." ■



Neusel (left) and Hoff drew 50,000 to see their 12-round draw

By Margaret Goodman, M.D.

Weighing In On Weigh-Ins

Say what you will about the Jose Luis Castillo-Diego Corrales fiasco, but when is boxing going to wake up and recognize that the day-before-the-fight weigh-in procedure isn't working? Boxers are unnecessarily torturing themselves to fight in weight classes where they do not belong.

This should be obvious to all after seeing Castillo lying on the floor near the scale between unsuccessful attempts at making weight. And if that wasn't enough to convince everybody, maybe hearing Corrales poignantly describe pounding the wall of his shower and praying for food during his struggle to make 135 pounds.

Boxing has to do something about this problem. If Castillo had made weight and the rubber match had taken place, chances are both fighters would have walked in the ring considerably over 150 pounds! That's not lightweight. It's not even junior welterweight or welterweight.

Furthermore, how healthy would each have been given the suffering they described—and at what cost to their future?

Our current system is faulty and dangerous. We must return to same-day weigh-ins. In addition, commissions need to start using digital scales to determine how much boxers *really* weigh.

***

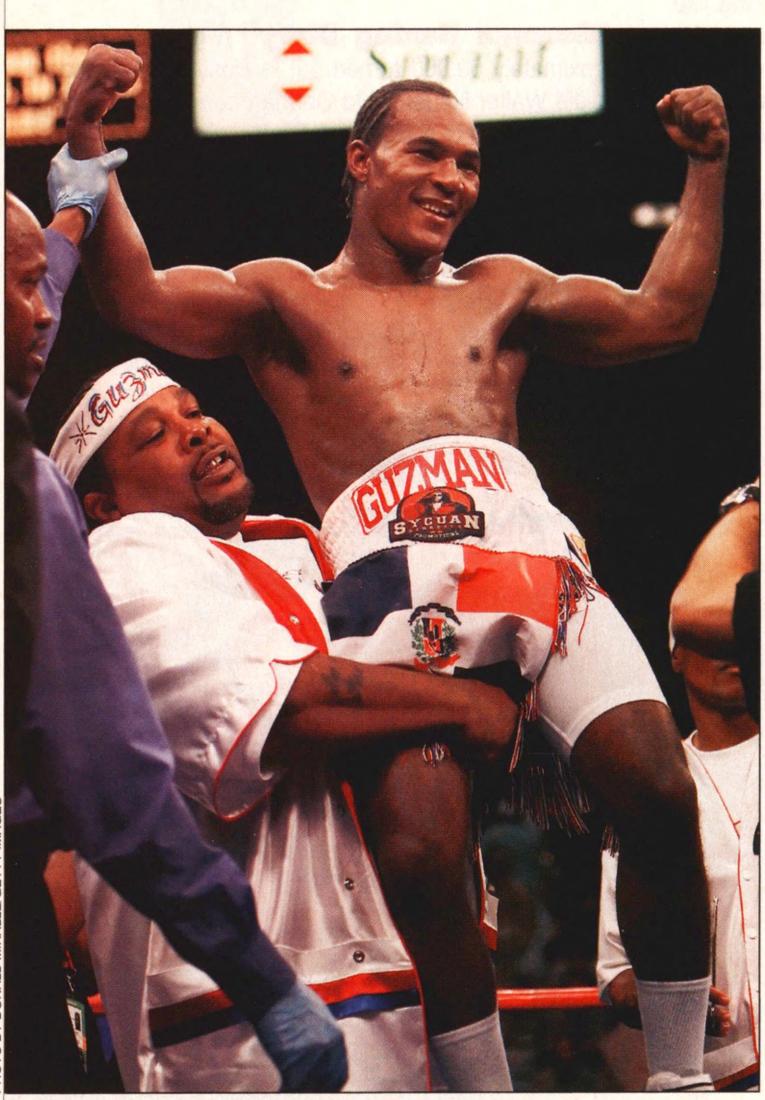


PHOTO BY DONALD MIRALLE/GETTY IMAGES

Thanks to the day-before-the-fight weigh-in, Joan Guzman recently entered the ring weighing 148 pounds for a supposed junior lightweight bout

When a rudimentary form of boxing first appeared as an Olympic event in ancient Greece, there were virtually no rules, and during the Roman Empire the brutality of the sport increased and boxers frequently fought to the death. There were still no rules when bare-knuckle boxing blossomed in England during the early-18th century, but, in 1743, Jack Broughton, often known as "The Father Of Boxing," created the first set of rules after he killed an opponent. The London Prize Ring Rules, which replaced the Broughton Rules in 1838, further tightened regulations. Then, in 1867, the Marquess of Queensberry Rules, drafted by John Chambers, basically transformed the sport into what it is today.

Down through the centuries, the various rule changes have made boxing safer for participants by stipulating what a fighter could and could not do in the ring. Violations of the rules, or fouls, are defined as actions by a boxer, identified by the referee, that do not meet the standard of conduct expected of a professional fighter. These fouls include:

- Butting with the head, shoulder, or knee
- Holding or deliberately maintaining a clinch
- Striking an opponent rendered helpless
- Holding your opponent with one hand, hitting with the other
- Striking deliberately over the kidneys
- Hitting an opponent's eyes with the thumb of the glove
- Hitting on the break or after the bell

- Hitting an opponent whose head is between and outside the ropes
- Pushing an opponent into the ropes
- Biting and spitting
- Rabbit punching

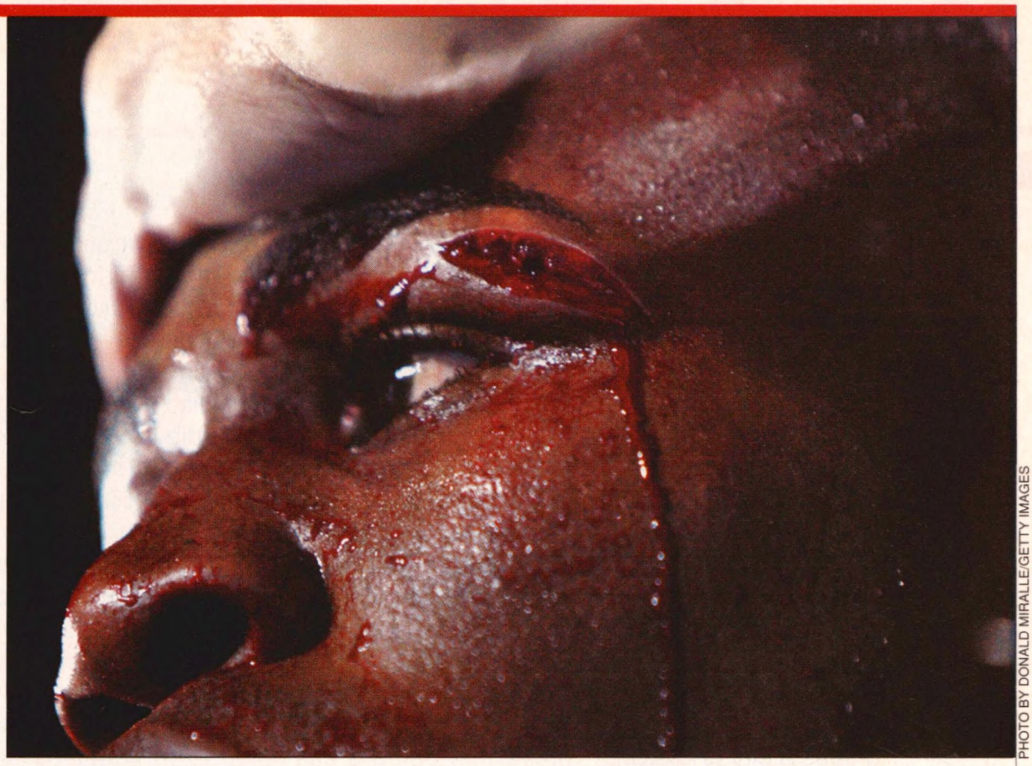


PHOTO BY DONALD MIRALLE/GETTY IMAGES

Whether inflicted on purpose or inadvertently, headbutts usually cause the worst cuts

All of the above fouls violate the code of combat that produces a "fair stand-up boxing match" and make boxing even more dangerous than it already is. For instance, the term "rabbit punch" was derived from the blow used by hunters to kill a rabbit by breaking its neck. In boxing, it refers to striking your opponent on the top of the cervical spine, where the skull connects to the neck. A rabbit punch can result in a fractured spine or paralysis, as well as injury to the back of the brain, which controls balance, breathing, and alertness.

Headbutts are illegal because they can result in a laceration that is frequently deeper than those caused by a punch. Headbutts can also result in a concussion. An example of this occurred when Shane Mosley was accidentally butted by Vernon Forrest in the second round of their first fight. Mosley wasn't the same for the remainder of the bout. It's also important to note that if a foul is to the head, no rest period is granted, and the fighter is immediately deemed either fit or unfit to continue.

Kidney punches frequently happen inadvertently in a fight, so it isn't unusual for fighter to urinate blood for days following a tough match. Still, if a fighter is significantly dehydrated, too much blood loss from the kidneys could result in renal failure.

Following his grueling 15-round war with Dwight Qawi in 1986, Evander Holyfield bordered on kidney failure due to all the bodypunches he'd absorbed. Bodypunches break down muscle, and, as this occurs, large quantities of myoglobin (breakdown product of muscle) clog the kidneys. The treatment is large amounts of intravenous fluids.

Debilitating injuries from low blows, however, have been largely eliminated by the use of groin-protective gear (cups), which is designed to shield the hips, groin, abdomen, liver, and kidneys. Former ring physician, Dr. Flip Homansky, believes the damage caused by low blows is overestimated.

"With a proper cup, it is almost impossible to cause damage to the family jewels," said Homansky. "The only serious issue arises with an upward punch like Jerry Cooney hit Larry Holmes with. In women, you rarely see low blows, but the possibility still stresses the need for pre-fight pregnancy testing."

The referee will determine if a foul is accidental or intentional, and disqualification for fouls to the body only occurs if the referee believes the fouls are flagrant or continual. The referee may order a point deduction and give a rest period of up to five minutes for the injured boxer to recover. The ref can also ask the ringside physician to examine the boxer before granting the rest period. If hit with an accidental low blow, the fighter must continue after the five minutes or lose.

On the other hand, point deductions are mandatory for intentional fouls. You need to look no further than the infamous "ear-bite" fight between Mike Tyson and Holyfield to understand the implications. Although that fight did not require a medical stoppage, as the bite didn't extend into the ear cartilage, the injury still required IV antibiotics and a surgical repair.

Whether our recollection of fouls centers on the two infamous Riddick Bowe-Andrew Golota bouts, the first two Terry Norris-Luis Santana affairs, or the more recent Floyd Mayweather-Zab Judah incident, boxing fouls continue to mar our sport, alter outcomes, and may contribute to severe injuries irrespective of intention. It is vital that rules are followed and the punishment for violating them are appropriate. ■

Dr. Goodman will be happy to answer questions about the medical aspects of boxing in future columns. Please send inquiries to: The Fight Doctor, P.O. Box 1148, Fort Washington, PA 19304

Come Out Writing

Letters may be edited for reasons of space and clarity. Send your comments to Come Out Writing, THE RING, P.O. Box 1148, Fort Washington, PA 19034.

Or e-mail letters to comeoutwriting@yahoo.com. E-mailed letters will include the writer's e-mail address unless a city and state of origin is provided.

Hooray For Hopkins

From prison inmate to middleweight champ to light heavyweight champ, Bernard Hopkins has etched his name alongside such greats as Sugar Ray Robinson and Muhammad Ali. He has literally defined the American dream. Love him or hate him, you'd have to be a fool not to applaud him. Hopkins is what's right with this sport. His life testifies to the power of the Sweet Science to change lives and give young men and women hope. His Spartan-like discipline and dedication to his craft, even at age 41, and his stance for justice in the sport prove that being a champion is a lifestyle, not merely wearing a strap around your waist. I wish Hopkins every good fortune as he moves on to life outside the ring and beyond.

JOHNATHAN L. IVERSON
New York, NY

I would like to congratulate Bernard Hopkins on his amazing career and contribution to the sport of boxing. His performance against Tarver was quite simply unreal. He controlled the fight from round one and totally outclassed the "bigger" man to become light heavyweight champion of the world. What a way to end an amazing career and to rid everyone's mind of the two Taylor borefests. A place in the Hall of Fame has to be guaranteed for B-Hop now, and might I add, is well deserved.

STEPHEN DAY
Dublin, Ireland

The Antonio Tarver fight showed that Bernard Hopkins is still one of the best fighters today and of all-time. He also showed it was a disgrace that he was taken off the pound-for-pound list after losing two very close fights to Jermain Taylor. So let's give Hopkins the credit he deserves as one of the best fighters of our time.

ANDY BUTRICA
andythegreat1313@aol.com

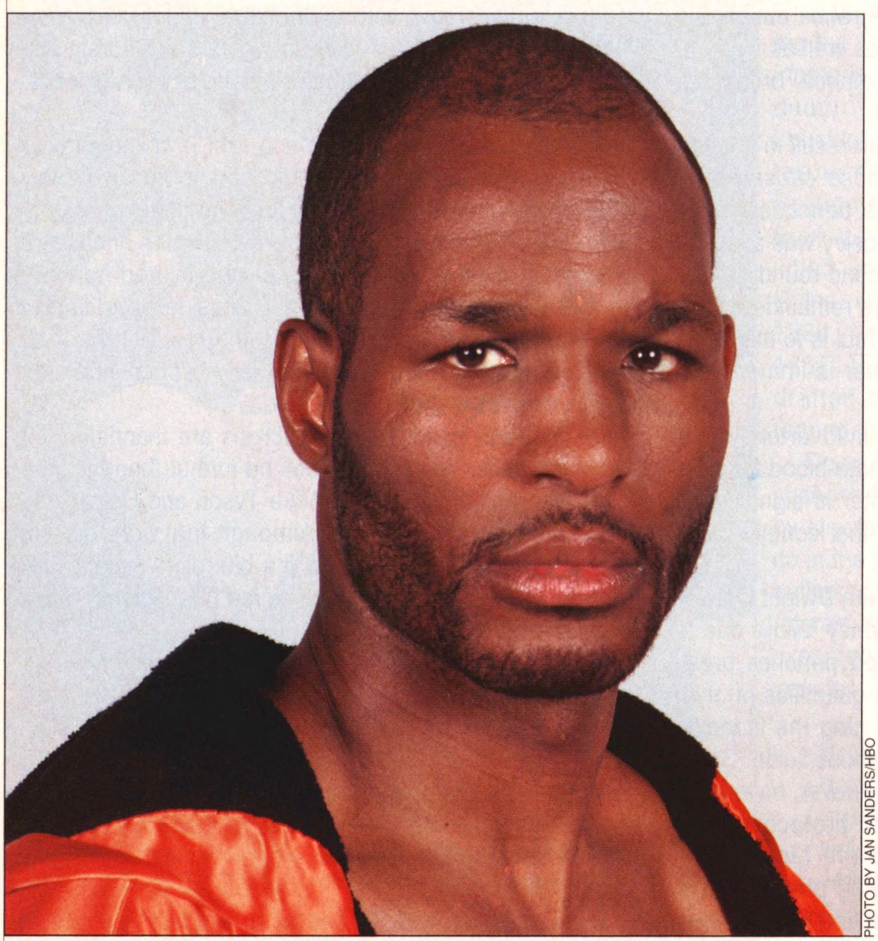


PHOTO BY JAN SANDERS/HBO

Bernard Hopkins remarkable upset of Antonio Tarver to capture the light heavyweight championship garnered more mail than any other topic this issue. Johnathan L. Iverson, Stephen Day, and Andy Butrica were among the many who wrote in praise of B-Hop.

Pep Rally

I would like to thank Hilario Andrade for providing the address of the great Willie Pep ("Come Out Writing," THE RING DOUBLE, July 2006). As a boxer, I study the fights of the all-time greats and have been a big fan of Pep for a long time. I was very happy to be able to send Mr. Pep a greeting card.

ANDY PRATEL
Coldwater, MI

Pleasantly Surprised

Having just purchased and read in great detail your report on the Joe Calzaghe-Jeff Lacy fight ("Calzaghe

PHOTO BY NICK LAHAM/GETTY IMAGES

Ricky Hatton's struggle to decision Luis Collazo for the WBA welterweight strap did not impress most U.S. critics. But Wayne Matthew-Stroud writes to remind everybody of Hatton's past accomplishments and urge everybody not to rush to judgment.

Proves His Point ... Emphatically," THE RING DOUBLE, July 2006), I must admit to being pleasantly surprised at the praise being heaped on who everyone in Wales, and the entire U.K. for that matter, considers to be one of the best fighters ever to grace a boxing ring.

Perhaps coming from Wales, I have a slightly biased view on the subject, but it just seems to me that the Americans in general have never given Joe the credit he so deserves. We always hear the same old story that he hadn't fought anyone any good, he looked terrible in some of his fights, and he was always injured. The answers to that are simple: None of the supposed top fighters in America would risk fighting him and all wanted way too much money, yes he has looked bad in fights, and he has been injured. But he always wins. Credit must go to Lacy for taking the fight and coming to the U.K., which is more than can be said for most of his peers across the pond. Time for the Yanks to put up or shut up!

SIMON WILLIAMS
simon.williams@btinternet.com

Sugar Boost

Shane Mosley should be considered an all-time great lightweight. He deserves more credit than he gets, and, regardless of where people rank him as a boxer, he is an all-time great person, one of the nicest men you will ever meet. I am glad to see that he is having success with Golden Boy Promotions. After finishing off Fernando Vargas for a second time, I hope Shane fights the Arturo Gatti-Carlos Baldomir winner and takes the belt again.

RYAN MOSSER
Richmond, KY

Ruined Vacation

I planned a weekend vacation and took time away from work to fly to Las Vegas and see the third Diego Corrales-Jose Luis Castillo fight. About two hours after checking in to my room, I heard the fight was off because Castillo couldn't or wouldn't make weight. My weekend was basically ruined by Castillo's disrespect and total mockery of the sport.

Looking back to their second fight, it sounds about right that someone from Castillo's team would try to manipulate a scale in order to cheat and make weight. I was once a big Castillo fan. Never again will I see him in the same light. I think he should be banned or forfeit a percentage of his future ring earnings. I feel sorry for Showtime and the others who spent big bucks putting this together.

FELIPE CALDERON
Montebello, CA

Ricky Rant

In boxing, you're only as good as your last fight. Ask Ricky Hatton, who has gone from being the hottest U.K. export to America since *Pop Idol* (now *American Idol*) to just another white fighter with a funny accent. But let's not rush to judgment. Floyd Mayweather lost his first fight with Jose Luis Castillo in many peoples' eyes, but now sits atop the pound-for-pound rankings. Fans forget. With their respective styles, Hatton still looks like Mayweather's toughest opponent. Ask this question: Would Mayweather have stopped Kostya Tszyu?

WAYNE MATTHEWS-STROUD
Brighton, England

Wanted: One Heavyweight Champ

I agree with Eric Raskin's article in the August 2006 RING EXTRA ("Can Anyone Do The Heavy Lifting?") that having just one heavyweight champ would be a much healthier state for boxing. I think things will be cleared up in the near future because Waldimir Klitschko is where the real money fights are, and, whether or not he has the title, everybody is going to want to face him. There are fighters with talent in the heavyweight division; we just need to let them settle the issue in the ring.

MARK McKEE
Richardson, TX ■

[Looking Ahead]

By Joe Santoliquito

Johnson On The Road Again

Glen Johnson will fight anyone, anywhere, at anytime. It's the mantra the light heavyweight has carried throughout his career. The problem is that no one seems very eager to fight him, despite the fact he is an ex-champion and THE RING's number-two rated 175-pounder.

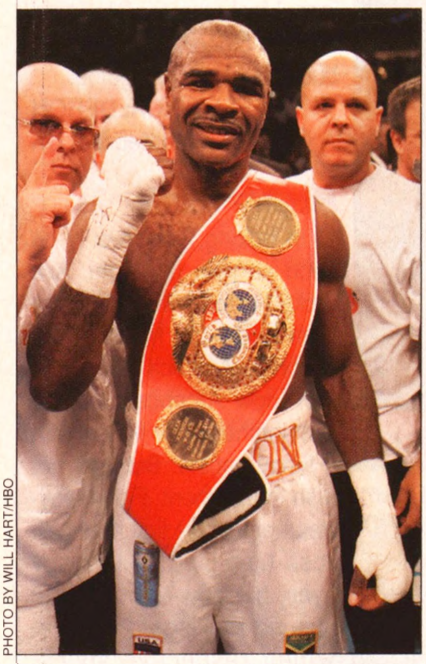


PHOTO BY WILL HART/HBO

Johnson is looking for another title shot this fall

Johnson is hoping to get another belt, when he takes on IBF light heavyweight titlist **Clinton Woods**, 39-3-1 (24), possibly sometime in September, in England. If Johnson does meet Woods, it would be the third fight between the two. Woods and Johnson fought to a draw in November 2003, and then Johnson beat Woods by unanimous decision in February 2004 to claim the vacant IBF title. Both bouts took place in South Yorkshire, England.

"I'll go back to England and fight Clinton Woods again," Johnson said. "I don't mind that, if that's what I have to do. Just tell me how much and where. I already beat Woods once in England, well, twice, but they called one of them a draw.

"Woods brings a workman-like attitude to the table. He claims that he's better now than at anytime in his career, and I'm looking forward to testing that theory. Woods certainly can punch a little bit, but I believe in my defense and my boxing skills. The bottom line is that I believe in myself. That's why I take the chances that I take."

Before the proposed Woods fight came up, Johnson, 44-10-2 (29), was about to take another risky trip to the U.K. That brush with opportunity came—and went—in June, when Johnson was scheduled to meet world super middleweight champion **Joe Calzaghe** in Cardiff, Wales. Calzaghe claims to have injured his left hand training for the Johnson fight.

Hand problems have dogged Calzaghe, 41-0 (31), throughout his career. "Joe has been advised to rest, and we hope he will return in the autumn," said Calzaghe's promoter, **Frank Warren**, who had trouble finding an opponent for Calzaghe since the Welshman's one-sided victory over **Jeff Lacy** in March 2006.

But that wasn't the first time Calzaghe had blown off a fight with Johnson. He had fallen out two previous times against Johnson, before the American's signature knockout victory of **Roy Jones** in September 2004.

"For me, Calzaghe getting hurt wasn't much of a surprise," Johnson said. "It's very disappointing, but I had in the back of my head that an injury would pop up. To be honest, I don't know if he hurt himself or he didn't, but that guy hurts himself more than anyone in boxing; he's a fragile human being."

Johnson feels that having a belt wrapped around his waist may coax Jones or **Antonio Tarver**, looking for redemption after being toppled from the light heavyweight throne by **Bernard Hopkins**, into fighting him again.

"I'd love to fight Roy Jones again," Johnson said. "He talks a lot about fighting me again, same thing as Tarver. They're both a lot of talk and very little action. I hope Jones looks at me like a steppingstone and wants to fight me again. Meanwhile, I'll keep working and keep on winning. I want to be ready and able when those two grow some courage and step back into the ring with me again."

Listen Up

Former heavyweight champion **Riddick Bowe** will continue on the comeback trail when he takes on **Ronald Bellamy**, October 7, at the Chinook Winds Casino Resort, in Lincoln City, Oregon. Bellamy lost his last four and was stopped in two of them ... The **Marquez** brothers, **Rafael** and **Juan Manuel**, are set to fight on the same August 5 card on Showtime's *Championship Boxing*, in Lake Tahoe, Nevada. Rafael will rematch with **Silence Mabuza**, who lost to Rafael back in November when the fight was stopped in the fourth round after the two fighters clashed heads. Juan Manuel is scheduled to fight Thai southpaw **Terdsak Jandaeng** in the main event.

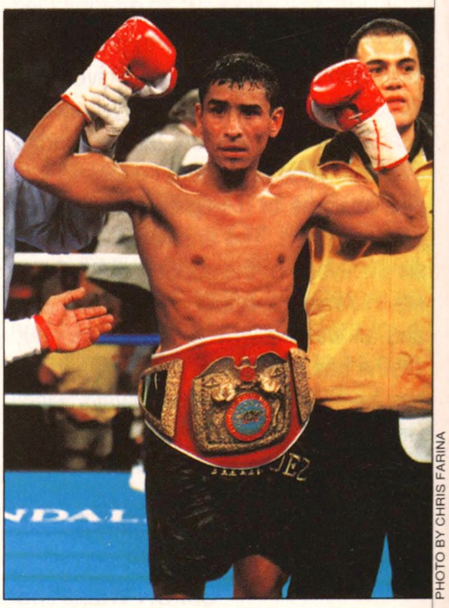
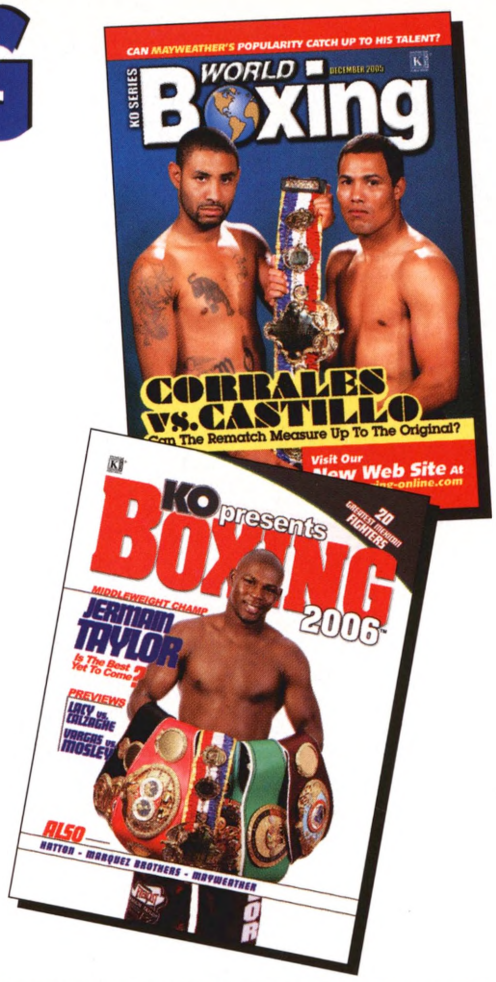


PHOTO BY CHRIS FARINA

■ *Marquez is looking for another win over Mabuza*

A DEVASTATING TWO-PUNCH COMBO!



SUBSCRIBE TO KO PRESENTS BOXING 2006 & WORLD BOXING

And save 42% off the newstand price!

KO PRESENTS BOXING 2006

KO PRESENTS BOXING 2006 (Three times a year, 140 pages) Includes ...

Showdown. A detailed look at a major upcoming fight.

Reading Between The Ropes. Contributing Editor Eric Raskin provides the story behind the story.

Hot Prospect. A profile of a rising fighter with star potential.

Media Review. A critical examination of the fight game's press coverage.

Superstars & Superfights. Remembering the greatest boxers of all-time.

WORLD BOXING

WORLD BOXING (Two times a year, 116 pages) Includes ...

Hitting On The Break. An outrageous column by controversial Jim Bagg.

Toe-To-Toe. The insightful views of our managing editor, Joe Santoliquito.

The Sweeter Science. Joe Santoliquito's in-depth look at the world of women's boxing.

The Predictor. Previews and odds on upcoming fights.

Report Card. Grading six different fighters in a new division each issue and forecasting their chances for future success.

SAVE NEARLY $18!

☐ World Boxing/Boxing 2006 (5 issues) for just $25.00 (LKOM/LWBX)

Send To: London Publishing Co., P.O. Box 2021, Dept. 9, Marion, OH 43306-8121

Please indicate method of payment:

☐ Check or money order (enclosed and payable to London Publishing Co.)

☐ VISA # _____

☐ MasterCard # _____

Expiration Date: ____ / ____ (MO/YR)

Signature _____

Name _____

Address _____ Apt. ____

City _____ State ____ Zip ____

☐ New Subscription ☐ Renewal

For Canada and all other countries: $30.00 for five issues combined of KO Presents Boxing 2006 and World Boxing ($40.00 airmail). International money orders only in U.S. funds only. Please allow up to eight weeks before you receive your first magazine. Offer expires January 31, 2007.

ACBM06

7434/1-06

CALL 1.800.777.0313 or visit EVERLASTBOXING.COM for your FREE PROFESSIONAL BOXING EQUIPMENT CATALOG from EVERLAST featuring James Toney and Marco Antonio Barrera.